■ NEWS / A20

PNP urged to file charges vs Pasig mayor for 'cover-up'

■ WORLD / A10

European Union backs Denmark in row over Muhammad cartoons

■ METRO / A22

P53 million worth of dangerous drugs seized from Indian trader in Parañaque raid

■ NEWS / A3

23rd SM mall opens today in Sta. Rosa Laguna

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PHILIPPINE DAILY
INQUIRER
BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS

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Lame Edsa rites irk FVR; may not accept invitation

By Nikko Dizon

FORMER PRESIDENT FIDEL RAMOS YESTERday lashed out at President Macapagal-Arroyo's administration for its plan to hold low-key celebration to mark the 20th anniversary next week of the historic People Power I.

Without waiting for reporters to question him on Malacañang's plans to mark Edsa I,

LAME/ A8

RP health care system near collapse, 4 senators warn

"URGENT AND COMPREHENSIVE" ACTION must be taken to save a health care system that is about to collapse because more than half of the country's health practitioners have left to work abroad, four senators said yesterday.

Citing a World Health Organization report, Senators Ramon Magsaysay Jr., Juan Flavier, Pia Cayetano and Luisa "Loi" Ejercito Estrada said the Philippines had become the second

RP HEALTH/ A7

LYN RILLON

GENERALS AT THE PALACE: President Arroyo presides over a command conference on Thursday where she ordered the military to step up the offensive against the "communist terrorists" whom the government considers the No. 1 enemy of the state. The conference also took up the Magdalo problem but "only in passing," according to Executive Secretary Eduardo Ermita and AFP Chief of Staff Generoso Senga.

Erap may be released

'Oplan Heckle' uncovered, say two generals

GOVERNMENT TROOPS LOYAL TO PRESIdent Macapagal-Arroyo have uncovered a fresh plot by rogue soldiers to grab power this weekend, the Reuters news agency reported yesterday.

The agency reported two senior unidentified generals as saying that Magdalo mutineers were planning a mass escape and disgruntled soldiers were plotting to hold military commanders hostage at a Philippine Military Academy alumni homecoming in Baguio City. The plot, dubbed "Oplan Heckle," had reportedly led Ms Arroyo to skip the homecoming, the agency said.

Executive Secretary Eduardo Ermita and two other military officers denied, however, that the President had planned to attend the homecoming.

"The President by tradition does not attend PMA reunions, only graduation ceremonies," he told the INQUIRER. "This will not be the first time she will not attend the PMA reunion."

The Inquirer has learned that the last time she attended a PMA reunion was in 2003.

OPLAN/ A20

JOAN BONDOC

OCT. 5, 2000: Sen. Teofisto Guingona drops a bombshell accusing President Estrada of taking multimillion-peso "jueteng" payoffs. Feb. 14, 2006: Like old buddies, funny Valentines.

Palace, 3 religious leaders support 30-day liberty

By Christine O. Avendaño and Norman Bordadora

THREE RELIGIOUS LEADERS—CEBU ARCHbishop Ricardo Cardinal Vidal, Bro. Mike Velarde of El Shaddai and Iglesia ni Cristo Executive Minister Eraño Manalo—are willing to serve as guarantors for deposed President Joseph Estrada in the event that he applies for temporary freedom.

This was disclosed yesterday by Michael Defensor, President Macapagal-Arroyo's chief of staff, who also said Malacañang would not oppose the arrangement. Defensor is leading reconciliation talks between the administration and Ms Arroyo's ousted predecessor.

Defensor said the matter had been discussed with religious leaders and their representatives for some time now. He said the most recent of the discussions occurred in the last two weeks, but this time with INC representatives and with Vidal.

"The three leaders are willing to guarantee [that] Estrada is not a flight risk and that he would be placed under their recognizance," he said in a phone interview.

Asked whether Ms Arroyo was aware of the position taken by the religious leaders regarding Estrada, Defensor said: "I think the President is aware since the three

ERAP / A7

DVD pirates paid off by film fest producers

By Bayani San Diego Jr. and Nini Valera

"LIKE PAYING RANSOM FOR OUR own movies," decried a producer.

And the director general of the Film Academy of the Philippines wants to know: "Why is the Optical Media Board consorting with pirates?"

Leo Martinez asked the question in connection with the arrangement between the OMB and the people behind the thriving piracy industry, wherein a virtual ransom was paid for the entries to the 2005 Metro Manila Film Festival.

Martinez told the INQUIRER that prior to the MMFF in December

DVD PIRATES/ A9

RP taken off US priority piracy watch list

THE UNITED STATES HAS REmoved the Philippines from its "priority watch list" of countries that do not properly enforce intellectual property rights (IPR).

The Office of the US Trade Representative yesterday issued a statement saying that it had upgraded the Philippines from the "priority watch list" to the ordinary watch list.

Its "out-of-cycle review" found that in 2005, "the Philippines bolstered implementation of its special legislation" against pirated audio and video discs.

President Macapagal-Arroyo crowed about the removal of the Philippines from the US government's priority watch list of countries with a notorious record of bootlegging American movies, music, software, books and apparel.

"I am happy that we are removed from the priority watch list of IPR violators. This is recognition of our relentless efforts to stamp out piracy in the country," the President said at a forum on public television last night. "I have always said piracy is immoral because it is stealing."

Ms Arroyo said the government's success in running after bootleggers augured well not only for American copyright and trademark holders but also for Philippine artists.

"This is a big industry, a lot of our creative artists will lose jobs if we allow them to continue to violate intellectual property rights," she said.

The country has been on the priority watch list from 2001, which meant that the country was just a step away from being slapped with trade sanctions by the US government.

The President also said the removal from the priority watch list should spur foreign investors to put money in high-value software development.

RP TAKEN/ A9

4 Pinoys invent personal weather bureau

By Blanche S. Rivera

IMAGINE HAVING A PERSONAL weather bureau.

Make one missed call to a mobile phone number and it sends back real time data on temperature, wind speed and direction, and rainfall volume of an area.

By April, Filipinos need imagine no more.

Geologist Dr. Carlo Primo David and three computer engineering students from Don Bosco College are putting the final touches on what could be the cheapest system useful to the country's disaster preparedness program.

The group, which is working with the UP National Institute of Geological Sciences (UP NIGS), will soon introduce the Automated Monitoring System (AMS), a data collection device capable of delivering up-to-the-minute information directly to your cell phone.

The system would be a breakthrough for Philippine environmental field monitoring. It offers a cost-effective alternative to the weather monitoring stations currently used by Pagasa.

4 PINOYS/ A21

SPOKENING ENGLISH NA KAMI!

Only English to be spoken in Munti schools

By Jocelyn R. Uy
Metro

"EXCUSE ME, MA'AM. I'M here to collect your trash."

"Students, please clean up your mess."

Don't be surprised if janitors in Muntinlupa City's public schools will be blurting out these lines on campus. The city council is drafting a law that requires

ONLY/ A8

WEATHER FORECAST

FORECAST: Extreme N. Luzon will have cloudy skies with rainshowers. E. Visayas and E. Mindanao will have cloudy skies with scattered rainshowers and isolated thunderstorms, which will be frequent over Southeastern Visayas and Northeastern Mindanao. The rest of the country will be partly cloudy to cloudy with isolated rainshowers.

COMPILED BY CYRIL L BONABENTE, PDI RESEARCH/02/17/06 SOURCE PAGASA

Metro Manila	Partly Cloudy	Iloilo/Bacolod	Partly Cloudy
Baguio	Partly Cloudy	Roxas	Partly Cloudy
Tuguegarao	Partly Cloudy	Cebu	Cloudy with Rains
Laoag	Partly Cloudy	Tacloban	Cloudy with Rains
Clark Zone	Partly Cloudy	Gen. Santos	Cloudy with Rains
Tagaytay	Partly Cloudy	Zamboanga	Partly Cloudy
Legazpi	Partly Cloudy	Cagayan de Oro	Partly Cloudy
Calapan	Partly Cloudy	Davao	Cloudy with Rains

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Second FrontPage

'Spice Boys' take up cudgels for Joe de V

By Norman Bordadora and Michael Lim Ubac

SPEAKER JOSE DE VENECIA AND HIS ALLIES' DETERMINATION to go it alone on Charter change continues to generate heat in the halls of Congress.

Rep. Prospero Pichay, who attacked De Venecia for being "obsessed with Cha-cha," yesterday got a spicy retort from the Spice Boys who are allies of the Speaker.

Rep. Robert Ace Barbers said what Pichay and like-minded critics were saying were "mere media noises" that only distract from the debate on how Charter change "could be rapidly achieved to put the country on the right track."

"What Speaker De Venecia offers is a vision of what the nation can achieve if we change the structure of government. There is nothing wrong in being passionate about changing the system," Barbers said in a statement.

Good intentions

"Let us not cloud the good intentions of a few individual leaders ... Let us not cloud their actions with doubt when what they really want to achieve is a better future for our country," said Bukidnon Rep. Juan Miguel Zubiri.

Pichay said on Tuesday that De Venecia was so obsessed with Cha-cha that he thought the House with a handful of senators could do the Charter revisions without a bicameral consensus.

Though he is the House majority's point man in convincing senators to agree to a constituent assembly mode of amending the Charter, Pichay believes that the Senate and the House should vote separately on the constitutional changes.

De Venecia and other House leaders this week launched a campaign to collect 195 signatures in support of a resolution to amend the Constitution drawn up by Rep. Constantino Jaraula, the chair of the House committee on constitutional amendments.

The number represents three-fourths of all the members of both houses of Congress.

Barbers and Zubiri were among the young congressmen that included presidential chief of staff Michael Defensor who were dubbed the Spice Boys of the 11th Congress. They were the main petitioners in the impeachment complaint against deposed President Joseph Estrada in 2000.

Risking a crisis

At the Senate, administration Sen. Richard Gordon said De Venecia and his allies were risking a political crisis if they insist on amending the Constitution without Senate concurrence.

"If they insist on their diabolical plan and political maneuvering to change the Constitution and shift to a unicameral parliament by the mere plurality of numbers, then they are instigating a political crisis," said Gordon, chair of the Senate committee on constitutional amendments.

The senator maintained that amending the Constitution, including a shift to a parliamentary system, was not a panacea to the country's problems.

Senate Minority Leader Aquilino Pimentel Jr. said a third method of amending the Charter, the people's initiative, was reserved for ordinary people and should not involve government officials.

The involvement of De Venecia and Interior Secretary Ronaldo Puno in the people's initiative would defeat the Constitution's intent.

Liberal Party representatives in the House meanwhile have claimed that Cha-cha proponents have resurrected the controversial proposal to scrap the 2007 mid-term elections.

They claimed that the no-elections provision (No-el) was surreptitiously inserted in the final draft of the Jaraula resolution on proposed constitutional amendments.

Imagining things

But Barbers said the five LP members—Nereus Acosta, Manuel Mamba, Henedina Abad, Joseph Abaya and Herminigildo Mandanas, who are allied with the LP faction of Senate President Franklin Drilon—were "imagining things."

Majority Leader Prospero Nograles said "the House leadership has already shot down that provision."

A cursory reading of the transitory provision in question reveals no specific mention of "no-elections."

But Acosta claimed that in not setting the date for the first election under a new system and giving the interim parliament the discretion to set the elections, the proposed amendment "effectively restores the No-el provision."

"What if they set the elections not on May 11, 2007 but sometime in 2010 or beyond?" he said.

Two members of the committee on constitutional amendments yesterday said the senators' objections to Cha-cha came from a desire to preserve the Senate and their apprehension that they would not have "a superior turf" in a unicameral legislature.

"But this desire for self-preservation runs directly counter to the national interest," said Rep. Exequiel Javier. *With a report from TJ Burgonio*

Senators smell Cha-cha in IRA

THE WORLD IS LITTERED WITH CHARTER change bugs for deeply suspicious senators.

Budget Secretary Rolando Andaya's announcement yesterday that the P17.5-billion internal revenue allotment (IRA) for local government units for 2000 and 2001 had just been released was met with universal skepticism in the Senate.

Some senators found the timing of the release suspicious as it coincided with the launch of a nationwide movement for Charter change.

They suspected the funds would be used to buy local government officials' support for Cha-cha.

"I don't believe that the timing was a mere coincidence. These funds are being released during the launch of Cha-cha," said Sen. Manuel Villar.

Budget officials flatly denied this. Andaya said his department was not about to withhold the IRA of the LGUs. The IRA is the local governments' share of national tax revenues.

Budget Undersecretary Laura Pascual explained that the IRA was released only last Wednesday because that was when the paper work was completed and not because of the Cha-cha campaign.

"We had to fix the procedures and we had to get the authority from the President to be able to release it. Then we had to make arrangements with the DOF and banks, and yesterday, all of the paper work came together, and we were able to issue the releases to the LGUs," she said.

Some 10,000 people gathered at the Ninoy Aquino Stadium Wednesday as Manila Mayor Lito Atienza launched the Charter change movement, calling for an immediate shift to a unicameral legislature and parliamentary system.

Andaya made the announcement of the IRA release at the hearing yesterday on the House bill appropriating P13.1 billion for a P1,000 increase this year in the monthly pay of 1.3 million government employees.

Senators again suspected that the P1.3 million supplemental budget was a "carrot" to win support for Cha-cha.

Sen. Joker Arroyo said it could be a "propaganda fund" for Charter change.

But they said they had no choice but to support it and recommend the bill's approval.

"We can't oppose it because we will look bad to all the employees of government. This is a case of 'damn if you do, damn if you don't'," Arroyo said. *TJ Burgonio*

BREACH OF ETHICS

Tech firm hits back at SolGen

By Armand N. Nocum

A LAWYER FOR MEGAPACIFIC Corp. yesterday accused Solicitor General Alfredo Benipayo of violating the ethical standards for lawyers when he "misrepresented material facts" by telling the Senate the poll computerization deal entered into by the Commission on Elections had been overpriced by more than P500 million.

BENIPAYO

MegaPacific lawyer Alfredo V. Lazaro said in a statement that Benipayo must also come clean about his part in the approval of the P1.3-billion computerization contract during his tenure as Comelec chair.

"The overpricing issue alleged by Benipayo is misleading and maliciously couched," Lazaro said, because the cost of the automated counting machines (ACM) was only part of the entire package that MegaPacific supplied.

Lazaro said that aside from breaching the lawyer-client privilege between himself (Benipayo) and the Comelec, decisions made during Benipayo's watch at the helm of the poll body subsequently became the basis for the government's decision to enter into the contract.

Comelec documents

Lazaro said MegaPacific decided to break its silence in the controversy after Benipayo surrendered to the Senate Comelec documents supposedly showing that MegaPacific had bought the machines from a Korean company for only P800 million.

Lazaro said that during his time at the Comelec, Benipayo "received price quotations for ACMs from at least two companies which indicated higher prices than the estimated price/cost set by the Comelec and IT (information technology) and civil society groups."

"He refused to consider significant data in favor of the cost-effective ACMs procured by the Abalos' commission; instead he assailed the procurement by Abalos and discredited him," Lazaro said.

The MegaPacific statement came three days after the Supreme Court ordered the Ombudsman to "show cause" why it should not be cited for contempt for failing to pursue graft and criminal charges against Abalos and other Comelec officials involved in the South Korean deal that the high court had earlier nullified for being tainted with "graft and legal infirmities."

Software security

According to Lazaro, Benipayo did not disclose the fact that apart from the purchase of 1,600 counting machines, the money paid to MegaPacific also went to the installation of software security and encryption features for the computers.

Other costs included quality control, ballot design, insurance, freight, manpower, metal casings for the computers, uninterrupted power supply hardware, database servers, operating system, database management, program management, systems integration, managed antivirus and training programs, and "election day support," Lazaro said.

'Hello Garci' generals promoted

TWO YEARS AFTER ALLEGEDLY playing key roles in the 2004 elections, all generals allegedly involved in the "Hello Garci" scandal have been appointed to juicy posts in the military.

President Macapagal-Arroyo yesterday swore in Major Gen. Romeo Tolentino as Lieutenant General as he joined his peers Army chief Hermogenes Esperon and Southern Command commander Gabriel Habacon among the elite group of three-star generals.

Presidential Chief of Staff Michael Defensor stressed that Tolentino deserved his promotion based on his sterling record in the field.

"The President is really fond of him because of his exploits. He is a known fighter," Defensor said.

The three – Esperon, Habacon and Tolentino – have been implicated in the Hello Garci scandal which alleged cheating in the 2004 elections, including the undue interference by top military in the election results of Mindanao.

Tolentino and Esperon are from the Philippine Military Academy Class of 1974 which has adopted First Gentleman Jose Miguel Arroyo as an honorary member. The military officer which headed the agency that was allegedly the source of the Hello Garci tape, AFP deputy chief for intelligence Rear Adm. Tirso Danga, has also been promoted as chief of the Western Command (Wescom) based in Palawan.

Tolentino was the highest among 13 generals and seniors officers sworn into office by the President in Malacañang yesterday. Among the key officers sworn in by the President was her chief of Presidential Security Group, Col. Reynaldo Bangit, who was promoted to brigadier general but Palace officials has yet to name his replacement.

Other generals and officers sworn in were Brig. Generals Rodolfo Obaniana and Fernando Manalo (promoted to major general); Colonels Fernando Niduaza, Alfredo Cayton, Pedro Fernando, Edgardo Gurrea, Arnulfo Ylanan, Arsenio Arugay, Fernando Zabat (promoted to brigadier general); and Capt Ruperto Rico Borromeo (promoted commodore).

More than a third of generals in the military and police are expected to retire in the next 12 months. *Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.*

Puno says he's still a congressman

ANTIPOLO REP. RONALDO PUNO will remain a congressman while still a secretary-designate of the Department of Interior and Local Government despite the formal turnover of the post to him by Interior Secretary Angelo Reyes yesterday.

In his speech, Puno said he would remain a mere secretary-designate until he is given the nod by the congressional Commission on Appointments, some of whose senator members have opposed his appointment.

"I will continue to take that path unless I get a fair hearing at the CA," Puno said.

Puno also announced that President Macapagal-Arroyo had appointed Wencelito Andanar as DILG undersecretary for administration after a long stint as undersecretary against transnational crime.

"This is a department that can run itself. I don't need to do your job for you since you're the experts here. My job here is to help you do your job not to tell you what to do. My job is to help you get support from outside," Puno told the department employees.

He said he would also give advice on how to run the department "if it is asked."

He said that "contrary to the statements of some ignorant senators," he had not assumed the office of interior secretary.

"I could assume the position now but I choose not to," he said.

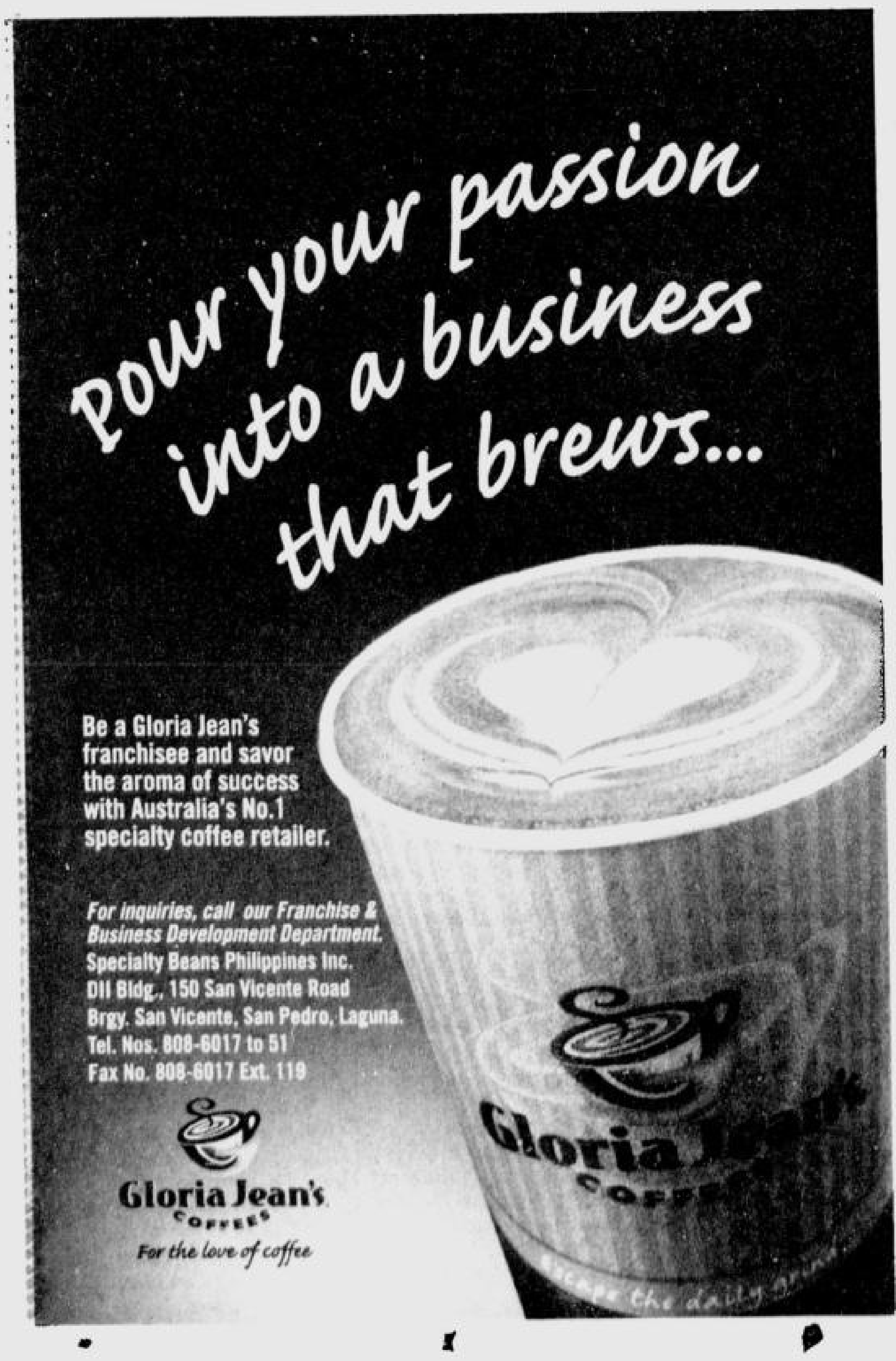
Senate Minority Leader Aquilino Pimentel said on Wednesday that it was illegal for Puno to assume the post in the middle of a Congress session.

Pimentel and Sen. Joker Arroyo also alleged that Puno was already using the DILG to work for Charter change and had met with DILG officials to "lay the grassroots" for such an operation.

In an interview with reporters after the turnover rites, Puno said that it was a lie that he had met with DILG regional and provincial directors concerning Cha-cha.

"I haven't even met with my friends in the department because I didn't want (such talk), how much more conduct such meetings," he said.

But he said that he would continue to work for Cha-cha "as a congressman." *Norman Bordadora*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Gloria Jean's Coffees
For the love of coffee

HENRY SY (center) leads the ribbon cutting of SM City-Santa Rosa with the assistance of (from left) Laguna Gov. Teresita Lazaro, Rep. Uliran Joaquin, Hans Sy, and Felicidad Sy.

JIM GUIAO PUNZALAN

SM-Sta Rosa opens today

MALL MAGNATE HENRY SY YESTERDAY led the ribbon cutting and blessing of SM Prime's 23rd supermall, which opens today in Santa Rosa to bring SM's shopping, leisure, and entertainment to Laguna.

Located on a 170,740-square-meter property in Barrio Tagapo, the mall has two levels and a floor area of 88,000 square meters. It will serve customers in Laguna and neighboring provinces, making it part of Santa Rosa's dynamism as an investment hub, tourism and education center, and upwardly mobile residential community, according to a press statement by SM.

Santa Rosa is a strategic gateway Metro Manila and other provinces in the Calabarzon region. The city currently houses three globally competitive industrial estates. These include the Laguna Technopark, which is the first industrial estate in the Philippines; the Santa Rosa Business Park, an integrated commercial, business, and industrial park; and the Meridian Industrial Complex, with its assembly plants and warehouses.

Known as the "Detroit of the Philippines," Santa Rosa is home to six automotive companies – Toyota, Ford, Nissan, Honda, Star Motor, and Columbian Motors – which account for 85 percent of local automotive production.

The city is also densely populated with over 120 residential subdivisions, ranging from the high end (Laguna Bel Air, Santa Rosa Estates, Terra Fortuna, La Residencia, Fontanamara and Belle Reve) to the medium range of city government socialized housing units.

Santa Rosa also has schools and universities of all levels within the city and surrounding areas. Among them are the Perpetual Help University, Polytechnic University of the Philippines – Santa Rosa Extension, De La Salle University Canlubang, Laguna Bel-Air Philippine Science, Dominican College, San Pedro College of Business and the Arts, and St. Scholastica's College, Westgrove.

Santa Rosa's surrounding towns and city – San Pedro, Binan, Cabuyao, Calamba City, and Carmona, Cavite – are also rapidly developing with 21 operating industrial estates, and over 500 residential subdivisions and villages.

The mall's major anchors are the SM Department Store and SM Supermarket and retail outlets like home stores, toy stores, appliance centers, fashion boutiques, book stores, novelty shops, sports stores, and jewelry shops.

It will also have good fast food at the SM Food Court plus specialty restaurants. It will also have four state of the art cinemas, an entertainment plaza, and 3,351 parking slots of customer convenience.

PCGG 'gone to the dogs'

By Alcuin Papa

MILITANT FARMERS HAVE SCORED THE PRESidential Commission on Good Government (PCGG) for saying that the agency, whose sole task is to recover the ill-gotten wealth amassed by the Marcoses and their cronies, was open to compromise in civil cases.

Danilo Ramos, secretary general of the Kilusang Magbubukid ng Pilipinas (KMP), said that with its latest pronouncement, the PCGG had "really gone to the dogs."

"The primary issue here is justice and not only actual recovery of the ill-gotten wealth. The PCGG has really gone to the dogs after the time of former chair Haydee Yorac. Almost all the cases are now for sale, starting with the coco levy funds," Ramos said in Filipino.

He said that with possible deals on the Marcos wealth, "the Marcos cronies and the Marcoses themselves must be happy. With the compromises, they would even make some money."

Ramos said PCGG chair Camilo Sabio should step down for agreeing to compromise, thus betraying the cause of the coconut farmers.

"He should just resign. He has sold down the river the interest not only of coconut farmers but the Filipino people as well. What we are after is justice. Sabio keeps saying he was jailed during martial law and fought the dictatorship. But where is justice now? Is it all just money?" Ramos said.

PCGG Commissioner Narciso Nario was reported to have said the other day that the agency was open to compromise in the civil cases it had filed involving the ill-gotten wealth of the late dictator Ferdinand Marcos, his relatives and friends.

Nario said settling the civil cases would bring a swift end to those that remained unresolved.

Garci not yet off the hook

By Michael Lim Ubac

VIRGILIO GARCILLANO IS NOT YET OFF the hook.

The revised report released by a joint congressional committee this week was not yet "final," according to Lanao del Sur Rep. Benasing Macarambon.

Macarambon, vice chair of the committee on national defense and security, one the five House panels that investigated the "Hello Garci" wiretap controversy for seven months, denied the House had cleared the former election commissioner "or anybody else involved in the tape probe."

Neither was the report "binding because it will still undergo tedious study, debate and revision by the committee members," he said.

"All of these will be done by the joint panel members before the report gets finalized and submitted to the floor. Every member is enjoined to give his or her input for us to complete the report," the lawmaker said.

Earlier, Garcillano had told the INQUIRER he would gladly face any lawsuits arising from his testimony before the joint inquiry, which ended last month.

"So be it. Let them file the cases so that I can answer the charges in the proper forum and the public may know who's lying," said Garcillano.

Garcillano repeatedly denied rigging the elections to favor Ms Arroyo, even challenging the opposition to show concrete proof instead of relying on bugged conversations.

Macarambon admitted that recommending the prosecution of Garcillano and those who did the wiretapping was not the aim of the House investigation.

"Whatever the final decision of the House, the committee's work will only end up in proposed legislation, but never in [the prosecution] of concerned individuals," he said, stressing the inquiry report must center on strengthening Republic Act No. 4200, or the Anti-Wiretapping Act.

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DAR: We're still indispensable to land reform

By Blanche S. Rivera

THREATENED WITH ABOLITION by the Senate, the Department of Agrarian Reform said yesterday there were more "new lands" to be acquired by the government and distributed to tenant-farmers, thus making the agency indispensable.

Agrarian Reform Secretary Nasser C. Pangandaman said more than a million hectares still needed to be included in the Comprehensive Agrarian Reform Program (CARP) and this would take several years beyond the 2008 deadline for the DAR to complete its acquisition and distribution of lands to tenants.

"These were not identified in the four-million-hectare scope of the CARP coverage before. They are private agricultural lands and some government lands that were overlooked in the course of the implementation of the CARP," Pangandaman told the INQUIRER in a phone interview yesterday.

DAR has distributed some 3.7 million of the 4.2 million hectares covered by CARP since the program began in 1988. Most of the remaining 500,000 hectares are the subject of litigation.

Senators Miriam Defensor-Santiago, Joker Arroyo and Ralph Recto have supported the abolition of the DAR after 2008, saying it had no more funds to support CARP.

Santiago moved for the scrapping of the DAR budget prior to its abolition, saying the agency had "outlived its usefulness." Santiago headed DAR in the Aquino administration.

Pangandaman said DAR also needed to thresh out the legal issues surrounding some distributed lands and to oversee the cultivation of the lands now in the hands of farmer-beneficiaries.

Peace Foundation president Manuel Quiambao backed the DAR claim, saying there were 1.2 million hectares of private agricultural lands and three million hectares of public lands that had yet to be covered by CARP.

"The Senate should instead focus on the paper trail of (Marcos) funds misuse and (investigate) pre-2004 election DAR officials," Quiambao said.

Pangandaman said the abolition of DAR would also mean the loss of more than 13,000 jobs of its employees throughout the country.

"We respect their (senators') opinion, but they should also respect us... Unless they abolish the law, DAR would continue to have programs and plans beyond 2008," he said.

DAR is also mandated to provide support services to agrarian reform beneficiaries through the installation of water and power connections, marketing of products and technical expertise on production.

Fingerprint machine does wonders

By Luige del Puerto

A MACHINE THAT MATCHES FINGERPRINTS within minutes is revolutionizing the way the police deal with forensic evidence.

Two weeks ago, the Philippine National Police Crime Laboratory was able to identify the mutilated bodies of two persons using the Automated Fingerprint Identification System.

Done manually by experts, the fingerprint matching would have taken days or weeks.

AFIS, however, allowed the police to ascertain the identity of the two bodies a day after they were brought to the police laboratory. It turned out that the two – Danilo Dacanay and Sherjohn Arendain – had criminal records and their prints were stored in the AFIS database, officials said.

The police simply ran their prints through a computer and obtained the results within minutes.

Developed by NEC of Japan, AFIS captures, matches or compares, identifies and stores digitized fingerprints.

The system, in use in Thailand since 1989, was brought to the Philippines in 2003 through a grant by the Japan International Cooperation Agency.

It became fully operational in February 2005 after more than 200,000 fingerprints of people with criminal records and people who had secured police clearances had been stored in it.

"AFIS would reach its full potential in the next five years, when the data base (gets) bigger and the system is adopted nationwide," said Supt. Lyndon Cubos, chief of the AFIS unit at Camp Crame.

Cubos said he expected AFIS to help in the faster resolution of crimes and court cases.

The system complements DNA testing and ballistics analysis, he said.

Yet the system is only as good as the people who gather and store the data, experts have pointed out.

UNEXPLAINED WEALTH

BIR exec in hot water

By Michelle V. Remo

THE DEPARTMENT OF FINANCE HAS filed charges of graft and corruption with the Ombudsman against the head of the Bureau of Internal Revenue office in Quezon City, saying she had amassed millions of pesos in assets, including prime real estate, various houses, a rice farm and even a resort, on a monthly income of P21,343.

In a statement announcing the filing of the case against Marina C. de Guzman, Finance Undersecretary Gaudencio Mendoza Jr. said she could also be charged with violating the Code of Conduct and Ethical Standards for Public Officials and Employees, the Revised Penal Code and a law allowing the State to confiscate any property unlawfully acquired by a public officer.

"The substantial properties, frequent expensive foreign travels and significant increases in her net worth give rise to the presumption that she acquired unexplained wealth which is manifestly out of proportion (to) her lawful gross income," said Mendoza.

Citing De Guzman's official statement of assets and liabilities, the DOF statement said the revenue officer's net worth had risen from P1.8 million in 1994 to P11.4 million by the end of 2004, although the latest records showed she had a gross annual income at P256,116.

De Guzman denied the charges. She said they constituted harassment due to a misconception that she had helped out in the tax evasion case of singer and actress Regine Velasquez. De Guzman admitted she was a friend of the entertainer but insisted she had not meddled in the case.

Velasquez was charged with tax evasion before the Department of Justice last year but the department recently dismissed the case.

"I will never deny that she is a friend, but I never lifted a finger to stop the case," De Guzman said in a telephone interview.

She said the case had taken her by surprise. "I was not given a chance to explain my side, and now all of a sudden I will be given this kind of harassment."

The DOF said a lifestyle check on De Guzman revealed that among the properties she had acquired were a 581-square-meter lot in Quezon City worth P4.6 million, a house and lot in Marilao Bulacan, two more houses and lots, rice farm and a resort in Pandi, Bulacan, and memorial lot in Dasmariñas, Cavite.

Romeo Tomas, a lawyer and BIR investigator, said De Guzman also owned shares of stock in Philippine Long Distance Telephone Co., Piltel and Meralco.

BIR officials said De Guzman claimed she had acquired her properties through earnings from various businesses. These included Mcde Guzman Garments and 4Ms Catering Services, but the officials said they doubted that the businesses were making money or even actually operating as they were not registered and had no tax records.

The officials said De Guzman had been investigated even before the case against Regine Velasquez was filed.

With a report from Nelson F. Flores

Corrections

IN THE FEB. 10 ISSUE, A FRONT-page story—"Pasig gov't, cops not off the hook"—misstated the name of a senior state prosecutor. The correct name of the senior state prosecutor is Joselita—not Joselito—Mendoza.

* * *

IN THE FEB. 15 ISSUE, VICTOR Agustin's column, "Cocktales," on Page B5 in Business—"Asian-Spirit fills Laoag void"—misspelled the first name of a former representative of Rizal. The correct spelling of the former congressman's name is Emigdio—not Egmidio—Tanjuatco.

* * *

IN YESTERDAY'S ISSUE, THE CAPtion of a photo of Jose "Joey" Lina on Page A25 in Sports erroneously stated that he is amenable to Philippine Olympic Committee president Jose "Peping" Cojuangco's idea of a new cage body calling itself the Basketball Association of the Philippines. Lina, president of the Basketball Association of the Philippines, holds a contrary position.

* * *

IN YESTERDAY'S ISSUE, A FRONT-page photo caption on the upper fold—"Long gray-haired line to freedom"—misstated the name of the prison that President Macapagal-Arroyo visited on Feb. 15. The President visited the New—not National—Bilibid Prisons in Muntinlupa City.

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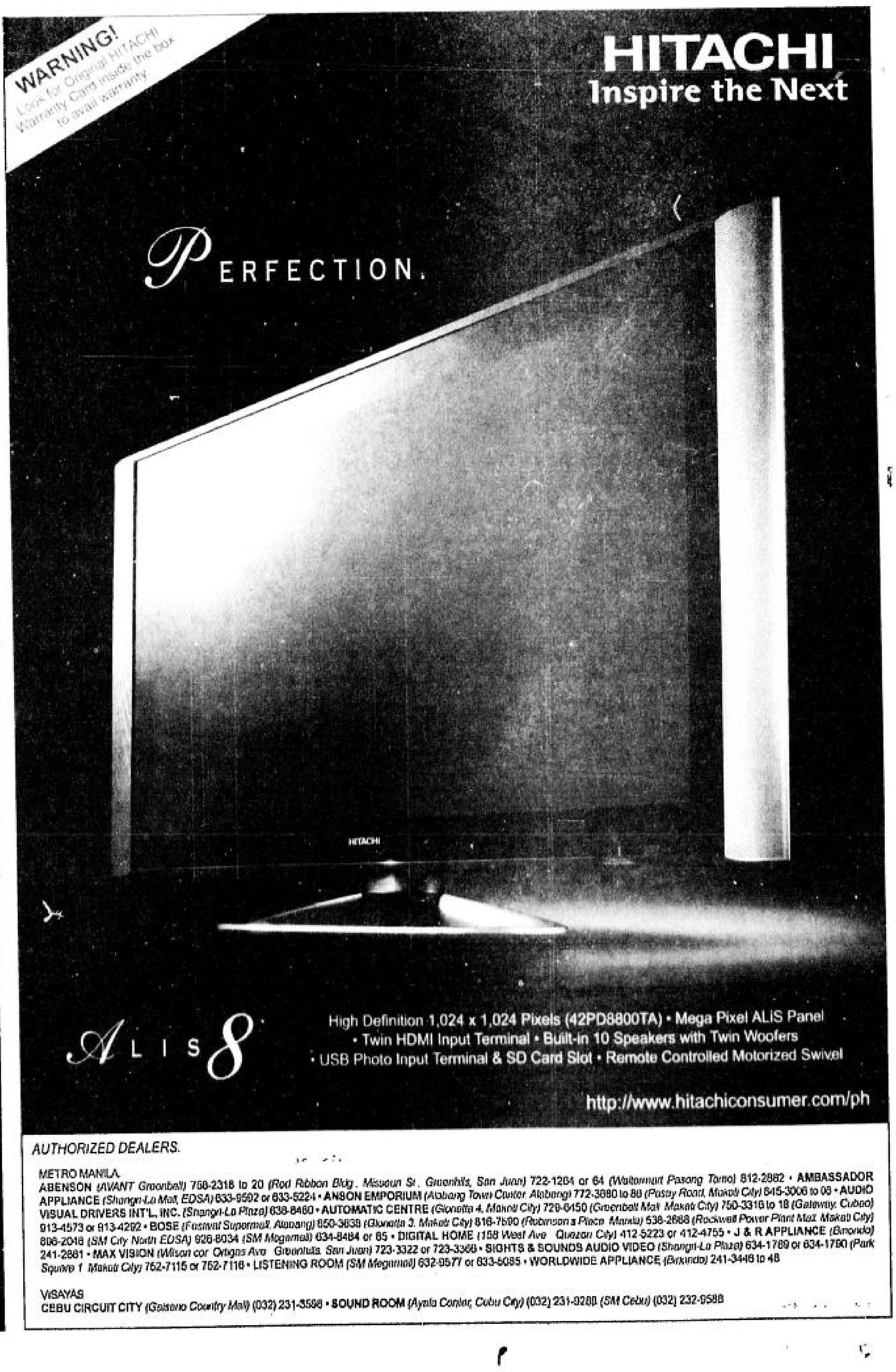

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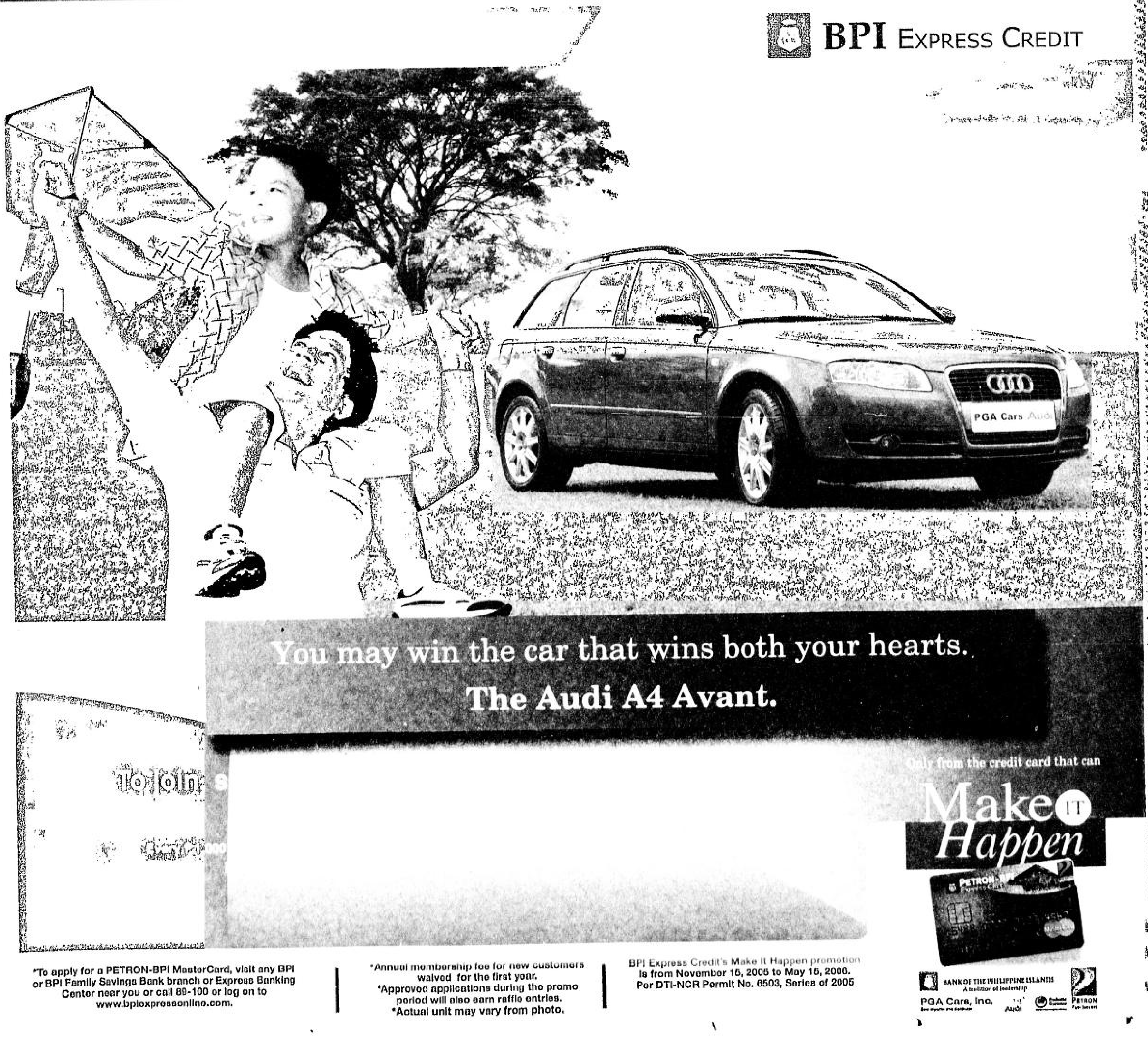

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Erap release for 30 days backed by Palace

From page A1

leaders had their own discussions with her on this.

"There's no personal or vested interest in this. [It] is for the national interest."

Estrada himself told the INQUIRER that he and Vidal met on Wednesday to discuss his possible release on the recognizance of the prelate and the two other religious leaders.

He said his release on recognizance would last for only 30 days and was meant for him to effectively prepare for when he takes the stand to defend himself from plunder and perjury charges before the Sandiganbayan.

Estrada said he was "thankful" to the three religious leaders for "helping" him.

"If [they] think I am guilty, they would [stay] away from me," he said by phone from his vacation estate in Tanay, Rizal, where is under house arrest.

Reconciliation

Estrada, however, appeared wary of the Sandiganbayan's eventual decision on his planned release on recognizance.

"I don't know what the court thinks. I would not know how [the justices would] decide," he said.

Asked if his planned release on recognizance also involved the President's chief of staff, Estrada said: "You know, Secretary Defensor is broad-minded. He knows [I'm not a flight risk]."

In Defensor's reckoning, the plan could only succeed: "How can you go wrong with that? The three leaders have a strong following and are loved by our people."

Besides, he said, the three religious leaders "understand what is happening to our country."

The Palace has become more active in its reconciliation efforts with Estrada "now that the hardliners are not in government anymore," Defensor said.

He was apparently referring to some members of the "Hyatt 10," a group of key government officials who quit their posts in July last year and demanded that Ms Arroyo do the same. The resignations stemmed from allegations that the President manipulated the vote in the May 2004 elections.

Defensor acknowledged that civil society leaders who were formerly in the government had blocked Malacañang's efforts to reconcile with Estrada.

He said the arrest of Estrada in 2001, which angered the followers of the ousted President, was "also their (the civil society leaders') idea."

Position of strength

Defensor said Malacañang was "talking with [the Estrada camp] from a position of strength."

"The economy is strong, the business sector is upbeat, we have a professional military and police unaffected by destructive politics," he pointed out.

Defensor made clear, however, that it would still be the court, and not Malacañang, that would determine the final action on the matter.

Estrada noted that the Sandiganbayan special division hearing the plunder and perjury cases against him had already denied his petition for bail, which would have allowed him to prepare for his testimony in court.

"There is no flight risk. Flight is evidence of guilt, isn't it?" he said.

Estrada reiterated his claim that, after Edsa II, then Justice Secretary Hernando Perez had said that no charges would be filed against him on condition that he leave for a country of his choice.

"If I really wanted to escape, I would have accepted [the offer]," he said.

Estrada also said he needed to be released from house arrest so he and his lawyers could plan his defense well.

"It's two hours coming here and another two hours [going back to Manila]. When we start discussing and we still have to eat, that's another two hours," he said.

"My lawyers (former fiscal Jose Flaminiano and former Sen. Rene Saguisag) are also already old," he added.

He likewise pointed out that his defense team had other cases to attend to.

Former El Shaddai spokesperson Mel Robles said he was aware "even earlier than last year" that Velarde was "willing to be among the guarantors."

Asked whether this supposed willingness on Velarde's part still stood, Robles said: "I see no reason for any change in his policy."

Robles also claimed to know that Cardinal Vidal was also willing to serve as a guarantor.

A source privy to the details of the meeting between Estrada and Vidal said the cardinal had asked the ex-President not to speak against the administration.

The source, who spoke on condition of anonymity because he was not authorized to divulge details of the meeting, said Vidal also asked Estrada if he was funding the activities of anti-Arroyo members of the military.

Estrada was said to have told Vidal that the family of the mutinous Magdalo soldiers had written him asking for help and support from his Kawal Foundation.

The source quoted Estrada as saying that everything was "in writing."

Doubts

But last night, Justice Secretary Raul Gonzalez expressed doubt that Estrada could be released on recognizance.

"I doubt a recognizance is tenable," he said, noting that Estrada was charged with the nonbailable offense of plunder.

Gonzalez explained that recognizance was like applying for bail: "But instead of bail, a person is placed under the recognizance of a reputable person who will answer for him."

RP health . . .

From page A1

largest exporter of physicians next to India and the world's largest supplier of nurses.

"The exodus of doctors in the last five years for higher-paying jobs overseas is leading to the near collapse of the country's health system, based on statistics on the ratio of doctor to citizen in the country, which is one doctor for every 28,493 citizens," the senators said in a resolution calling for an inquiry.

Seventy percent of Filipino doctors are working abroad and almost 85 percent of the country's health practitioners are already overseas, according to recent studies.

The senators said the continuing diaspora of Filipino doctors could be attributed to their low salaries—an entry level salary of P12,546 in government and P17,069 in the private sector.

Worse, the percentage of those taking the licensure exam for doctors showed "declining professionalization."

The senators said that 69.15 percent of those who took the exam passed in 1999, but this figure declined to 65.03 percent in 2000; 61.04 in 2001, 63.18 in 2002 and 52.26 in 2003.

Remedial legislation

The resolution called on the Senate committees on health, civil service and other appropriate committees to conduct an inquiry into "the state of the medical profession and the plight of Filipino doctors, taking into consideration the recent reports of the state of near collapse of the country's health system with the end view of enacting remedial legislation for the purpose."

It noted the 1987 Constitution provision that the state "shall protect and promote the right to health of the people and instill health consciousness among them."

The same resolution said the Supreme Court, in a 1989 decision, saw the medical profession as one "directly affecting the lives of the people, unlike other careers which, for this reason, do not require more vigilant regulation."

A comprehensive program should be set in place as soon as possible "to protect and stabilize" the health care system, Magsaysay, Flavier, Cayetano and Estrada said.

Flavier and Estrada are both medical doctors. Flavier served as health secretary during the Ramos administration *Philip C. Tubeza*

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Lame Edsa rites irk FVR

RECLAIMING PEOPLE POWER for the people, former Vice President Teofisto Guingona and Horacio Morales (right) lead cause-oriented groups to honor the legacy of the bloodless Edsa revolt of 1986. JOAN BONDOC

From page A1

Ramos said that he would be "amplifying" his earlier statement that it was "deplorable" that the Palace had not shown enthusiasm for the Edsa I anniversary.

"I am volunteering it as my contribution in the reinforcement of the spirit of Edsa," Ramos said on his return from the four-day Asean Eminent Persons meeting in Bangkok.

"It is inexcusable for our high officials in the land to talk about small plans, scattered plans, diminishing plans, as if it is an event that should be slowly, gradually and steadily forgotten," Ramos said at an airport press conference.

He hinted that he would not attend any Malacañang-organized events for the Edsa anniversary, saying that he would be "celebrating with the people" instead.

Ramos, along with Defense Secretary Juan Ponce Enrile, was a key player in the Feb. 22-24, 1986, revolution that ended the Ferdinand Marcos dictatorship and installed Corazon Aquino in Malacañang.

Aquino has been leading a movement seeking the resignation of Ms Arroyo for allegedly stealing the May 2004 presidential election.

Ms Arroyo, the beneficiary of Edsa II that ousted Joseph Estrada in 2001, has vehemently denied the election fraud charges. She escaped impeachment in Congress last September.

Admired 'round the world'

Ramos said it was ironic that the "Edsa concept" that was greatly admired by many countries was being downplayed two decades later by its own government.

"Why is it that here in our own beloved Philippines, where it all started, and achieved with remarkable, admirable even, success, that we should be the ones to try to downgrade it, diminish it, and marginalize it?" Ramos said.

Any 20th year anniversary, he stressed, is "significant" and "important."

Ramos said that he had been out of the country and had yet to see an invitation from Malacañang. He said that he only learned from the newspapers that he would be a "special guest" at a wreath-laying ceremony at the Libingan ng mga Bayani on Feb. 22 with Ms Arroyo. Aquino has not been invited to this affair.

But Ramos said that even if he had been invited "two weeks ago, it would have been late already to send an invitation."

He further castigated the government for its apparently piecemeal, unenthusiastic planning "of this significant occasion".

"(It is) as if it was a nonevent," he said.

Ramos added: "I hope I'd be pardoned for saying all of these. But that's how deeply I feel about this."

He also expressed hope that Ms Arroyo would not use her attendance at the Libingan ng mga Bayani as a "lame excuse to prove her so-called commitment to the spirit of Edsa, or to ride on the heroic performance of the soldiers and policemen buried there to prove that indeed she is people empowerment oriented."

Lakas scored

Ramos criticized the ruling administration party, the Lakas-Christian Muslim Democrats (CMD), which he founded and traced its roots to Edsa I, for its silence.

"Have they forgotten where they came from. How come they forget these things? Maybe it's because they change parties all the time," he said.

Ramos stressed that Edsa had always been about "people empowerment," which he said had been forgotten by the country's leaders after the first People Power.

The people, he said, have often been treated like "mendicants and refugees," getting them used to government doleouts, instead of providing them with sustainable livelihoods.

Ramos said that the people themselves should commemorate Edsa I in a way that has the "mood of recollection, thanksgiving and reflection."

"This is the time for recollection, thanksgiving, uniting, so that we can craft a surer direction to a better future instead of just muddling through all the time," he said.

'Termite' in Malacañang

Ramos noted that the country actually lacked a "sense of unity coming from a deeper sense of thanksgiving for the blessings of the good Lord."

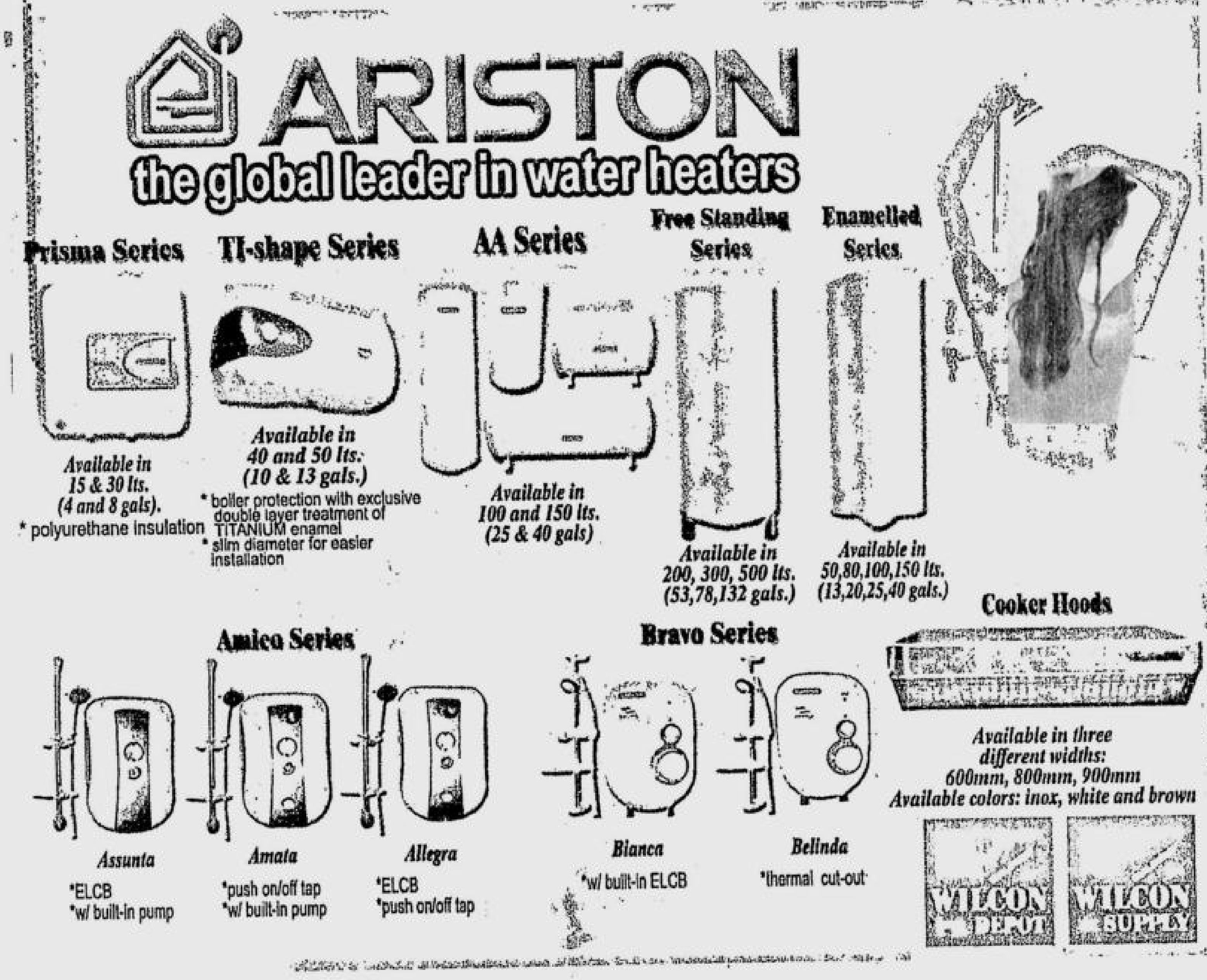
Akbayan Rep. Risa Hontiveros-Baraquel also said yesterday that Ms Arroyo's "lukewarm attitude" toward Edsa I showed her "fear and disdain" of the "ultimate exercise of the sovereign will."

"That (Ms Arroyo) rode on a similar uprising to catapult herself to power is the supreme irony," Baraquel said.

Also yesterday, the newly appointed members of the Edsa People Power Commission took part in a mass oath-taking before Ms Arroyo at the Palace.

The commission was reorganized following the departure of key Cabinet officials who demanded Ms Arroyo's resignation last year for allegedly manipulated the 2004 balloting.

One of those who was sworn in was Pastor Saycon, a former critic of the administration. Ms Arroyo had previously described him as a "termite." *With reports from Christine O. Avendaño and Norman Bordadora*



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Only English to be . . .

From page A1

all school personnel to use English as the primary medium of communication in government-run educational institutions.

Janitors also

The proposed legislation appears to be anchored on local government plans to build a call center industry in the city, which demands proficiency in English or other languages as a basic competency among employees.

If approved, the new rule will not exempt janitors, medical personnel, clerks, guards and the other nonteaching staff.

"They are all over the school. The children interact with them, so they too must speak in English," said James Ariola, head of the city's Environment and Natural Resources Office and member of the Muntinlupa Investment Board (MIB).

One of the thrusts of the MIB is to promote the city as the leading economic center in Southeast Asia by 2020 and a "simple" step toward a "grand vision" is to make its work force the "most competent," especially for the call center industry, Ariola told the INQUIRER yesterday.

Problem

Ariola said the country's strength lay in outsourcing, particularly in call center operations, but the industry had already sensed the crumbling English proficiency among Filipinos.

"To address this problem, proficiency in English must start from childhood because an empirical study of the language among adults doesn't always work," he said.

According to Councilor Icasiano de la Rea, the proponent of the ordinance, the school is the best place to teach children to speak "good English."

Job chances

"If you do not oblige them to speak the language in school now, when will they start practicing it?" De la Rea said as he underscored the importance of the ordinance.

"If a person is proficient in the language, he or she has a higher chance of landing a job, especially in call centers," De la Rea told the INQUIRER in a phone interview.

The proposed ordinance is set for first reading on Thursday next week.

It requires instructors of English, math, science, geography, music, arts and physical education to use the English language in imparting their lessons. It also obliges them to use the language when communicating with students in and out of the classrooms.

Personnel assigned to "English-speaking zones," such as libraries, science and speech laboratories and study centers, must call the attention of students who disregard the rule.

Training

"This move would require retraining of teachers in the English language. Nonteaching personnel would also undergo basic training," Ariola said.

School department heads must ensure that their personnel and students follow the ordinance once it is approved, said Ariola.

According to the measure, teachers found violating the rule for the first time will be summoned to their supervisor's office to be reprimanded. If repeated, the offense will then be reflected on their performance evaluation ratings.

For students, the violation will be reflected in their Form 138 on the third offense.

The English-only policy will also be enforced in day care and nursery centers under the proposed ordinance.

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DVD pirates paid off by Metro film fest producers

From page A1

last year, OMB lawyer Marivic Benedicto informed the film producers and the Motion Picture Anti-Film Piracy Council Inc. that film pirates had copies of the festival entries, "and if the producers don't want these sold on the streets, they better pay up."

"The pirates were asking for P200,000. Apparently, the deal was consummated because the pirated discs didn't come out until after the festival," Martinez said.

OMB Chair Edu Manzano confirmed the arrangement in an interview with the INQUIRER on Jan. 29. "During the last MMFF, we asked retailers not to sell pirated discs, and they complied," he said.

But Manzano made no mention of money changing hands. When asked how the deal was forged, he said: "I think we were just a bit more creative this time. We went back to the old dialogue. We really went deep inside [the pirates' lair]."

OMB asks for funding

The arrangement was also confirmed by Roselle Monteverde-Teo of Regal Entertainment, producer and coproducer of at least five MMFF entries—"Blue Moon, "Ako Legal Wife," "Shake, Rattle and Roll 2K5," "Exodus" and "Mulawin."

"It was like paying ransom for our own movies," Teo said, adding:

"What happened was the OMB asked for additional funding to stop the piracy of MMFF films. But since the OMB couldn't get it from the Anti-Film Piracy Council, the OMB approached the producers. It was a request for additional funding from the OMB, so that it could stop the pirates during the [festival]."

The way it was explained to producers, the money was "to compensate the pirates for their loss of income throughout the two-week filmfest."

As far as Teo was concerned, the issue only highlighted the urgency of the piracy problem.

"It was just a matter of coordination," she said. "The council is composed of producers; the OMB was set up by the government. They should cooperate because they have the same objective in mind."

Short-term solution

But the two parties failed to work together when confronted with the pirates' threat to sell the bootleg discs on the streets during the MMFF.

"We needed to act fast because pirates move quickly," Teo said. "Yes, it was a short-term solution, but at least the OMB found the solution. But then again, it was hard for me to comprehend why the producers had to shoulder the expense because we had already given our share to the Anti-Film Piracy Council [through amusement taxes]. But the OMB explained to me that it needed funding."

In the end, she said, it all boiled down to making effective use of available funds.

Teo summed it up as "a wake-up call for everyone in the industry."

"This wouldn't have happened if each one was doing his job. They have to go to the root of the piracy problem. And it's not just for now or during the [MMFF] run. The fight against piracy should be a continuing effort."

Word war

The word war between Martinez and Manzano was sparked by the reallocation of the MMFF funds, which was first reported in the INQUIRER on Feb. 7.

Under the reallocation, the shares of the FAP and the Anti-Film Piracy Council were cut to 10 percent, while the OMB and the Film Development Council of the Philippines were included as new beneficiaries, with 20 percent each.

Martinez said the MMFF funds—from the 30-percent amusement tax collected by local government units throughout the MMFF—were usually turned over to the beneficiaries in three installments during the year.

According to a published report, the MMFF gross revenue has risen from P328 million in 2003 and P300.07 million in 2004 to P353 million in 2005.

Doing its job

Defending the 20-percent allocation for the OMB, Manzano said his office was doing its job and needed more funds.

He also took exception to a comment made by Martinez that the OMB and the Film Development Council had been mere onlookers.

"What has Leo done?" Manzano said on Tuesday. "All the FAP has done is to give out the FAP Awards. Even my mother could have done that.

"[But] I don't really mind the rest of Leo's gobbledygook."

Manzano said that because of the OMB's efforts, the country was free of pirated products for 27 days during the MMFF season from December to January this year.

"We worked on that. And none of my staffers complained even if they had to work on Christmas and New Year's Day," he said.

Manzano said the operations conducted against the pirates cost money, which the OMB had always been short of.

"We were given only a P26-million budget, and it has been our budget for the past three years," he said.

He also said he had asked for a P110-million annual budget to reinforce the OMB activities by putting up offices in all 13 regions nationwide.

Victims and buyers

Pirates deprive legitimate film distributors and music producers of millions, if not billions, of pesos in revenue.

Piracy also results in unrealized taxes for the government, Manzano said.

"There are victims because there are buyers of pirated items. If you support piracy, you unavoidably support criminality," he said.

In a statement issued earlier, Manzano said pirates were "not just businessmen engaged in an illegal trade" but "hardened criminals with links to global crime syndicates."

Down 6%

He said that beyond the theft of intellectual property, piracy also involved "smuggling, corruption and pornography, and the exploitation of women, children and poor vendors."

Piracy has actually gone down by at least 6 percent, Manzano claimed. But he also acknowledged that a total eradication of the menace in the near future was unlikely.

According to Manzano, the Philippines is "the only country in Asia that has seen a decrease in piracy [lately], so that we're being invited now to serve as a test case in Southeast Asia."

"My counterparts [in the region] could not believe that we could achieve so much with so little funds," he said.

Performance-wise, 2005 was "a good year for the OMB, but it could have done better," Manzano told the INQUIRER.

This year, he said, the OMB would "try to outdo itself." *With a report from Jerry E. Esplanada*

Video pirates scalp 'Pacman'

By Jerry E. Esplanada

PIRATES HAVE ADDED MANNY PACQUIAO to their list of celebrity victims.

They have been cashing in on the Filipino boxing champion's popularity following his recent knockout win over Mexican Erik "El Terrible" Morales in Las Vegas.

Original copies of the Pacquiao-Morales rematch are being sold for P199 to P299 in Metro Manila video shops.

But counterfeit DVDs and VCDs of the bout are selling like the proverbial hotcakes at, among other outlets, the Barter Trade Center in Quiapo, Manila, which is seen by some intellectual property rights and consumer activists as the symbol of the government's losing battle against piracy.

Pirated discs, with titles like "Morales 2 Pacquiao: The Battle" and "Pacman versus El Terrible," can be had for only P20-25.

The discs have been in the market since Jan. 23, the day after the televised match.

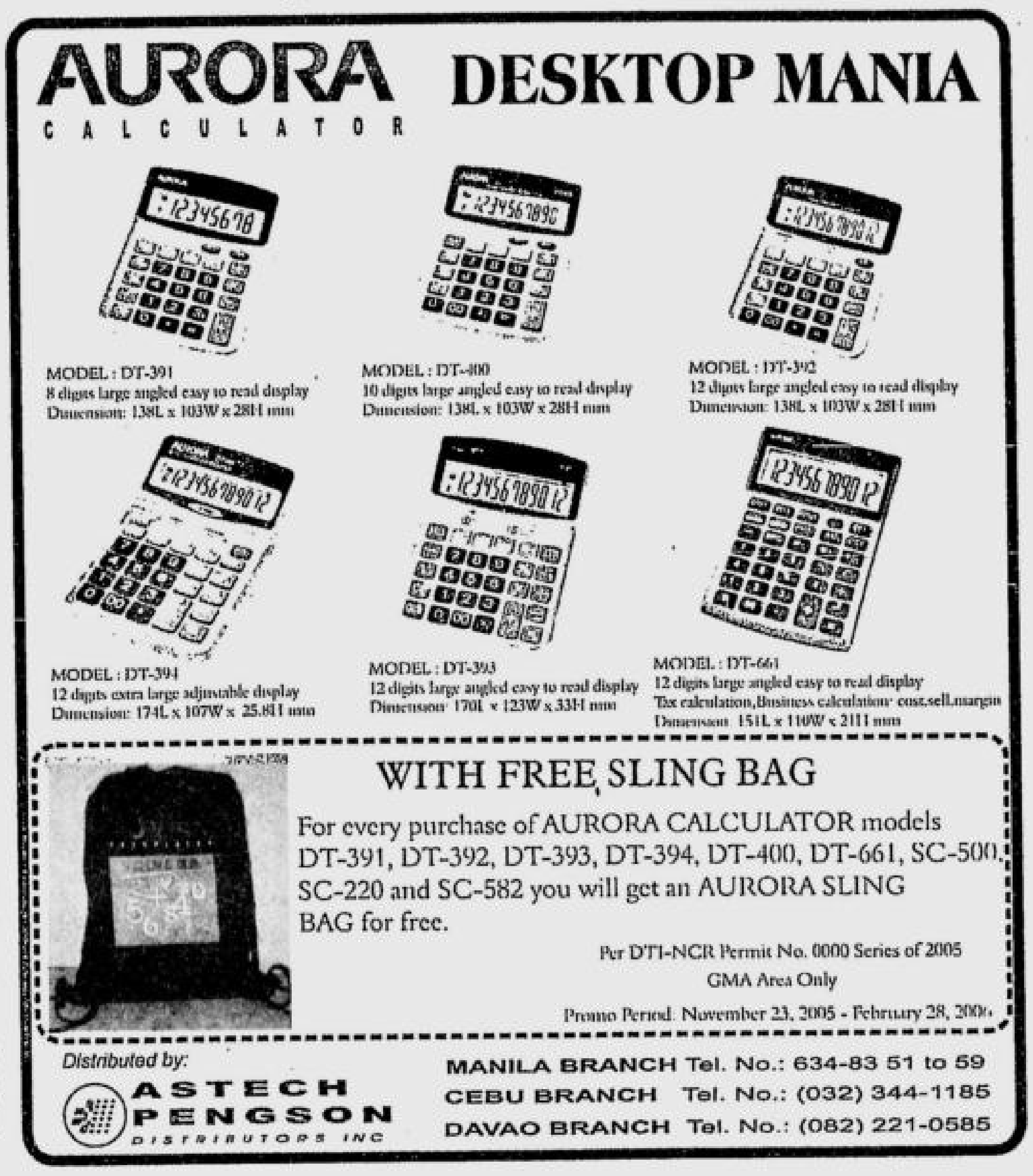
Pacquiao CD top seller

Pirates have also flooded the market with counterfeit copies of Pacquiao's debut CD, "Para sa 'yo ang Laban na 'to."

Priced at only P20, the CD hit stalls at the Barter Trade Center on Jan. 26, two days before the scheduled release of the original.

Pacquiao's CD has ruled the counterfeit record charts for two weeks now, along with recording industry A-listers like M.Y.M.P., Orange and Lemons, Bamboo, Cueshe, Rivermaya and Ogie Alcasid.

The original Pacquiao CD has 10 tracks. The pirated version carries 21 singles, including songs by former "Pinoy Big Brother" housemate Sam Milby, Christian Bautista and actor-singer Piolo Pascual.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RP taken off US …

From page A1

"This downgrade in the priority watch list is a big deal in terms of attracting investors into the country," she said.

The United States conducts a yearly review of countries under watch for IPR violations usually in February-April. An off-cycle review, done only upon request and after much deliberation, occurs in between the regular yearly review.

Raids

The USTR said raids by Philippines authorities on pirate optical disc production facilities and on retail stores selling pirated and counterfeit goods helped the country upgrade its status.

In January, the Intellectual Property Organization reported that various government agencies seized P1.04 billion worth of counterfeit goods, P700 million of which was related to optical media products.

"The Philippine government also measurably improved coordination of government agencies responsible for IPR enforcement," the agency said.

Still, the USTR said that sustained efforts and continued progress on key IPR issues "would be essential to avoid a future return to the Priority Watch List."

"The United States will be monitoring closely efforts by the Philippines government to further improve its IPR enforcement regime," it said.

The USTR is mandated under the US Trade Act of 1974 to identify countries that deny adequate and effective IPR protection or deny fair and equitable market access to persons who rely on intellectual property protection.

Under the so-called Special 301 Report, the agency created a "Priority Watch List" and a "Watch List." A country on the watch list indicates that it has problems with respect to IPR protection, enforcement or market access for persons relying on intellectual property.

Countries on the Priority Watch List are the focus of increased monitoring by the USTR.

In the 2004 review, the USTR retained the Philippines in the PWL along with other Asian countries such as India, Indonesia, Korea, Pakistan and Taiwan. *Reports from Ronnel W. Domingo, Gil C. Cabacungan Jr. and AFP*

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EU backs Denmark in cartoons row

STRASBOURG, FRANCE—THE EUROPEAN UNION backed Denmark on Wednesday in the row over cartoons of the Prophet Muhammad, but leaders of its legislature differed over the limits of free speech.

The cartoons, first published in Denmark, caused outrage in the Muslim world and Danish and other European diplomatic missions have been attacked in Syria, Lebanon, Iran, Pakistan and Indonesia.

In Karachi, Pakistan, more than 20,000 Pakistanis staged new protests over cartoons of the Prophet Muhammad Thursday as officials blamed extremists for riots that have targeted Western firms and left five people dead.

The protests come a day after 50,000 demonstrators rampaged through the northwestern city of Peshawar, torching a KFC outlet and 16 buses operated by a South Korean firm, and trashing some Telenor offices.

An eight-year-old boy was killed by a stray bullet and a man was electrocuted by power lines that toppled during the mayhem.

Riots also flared Wednesday for a second day in the historic eastern city of Lahore, where another person was shot dead, and in at least half a dozen other towns across the world's second most populous Muslim nation.

Two people died in Lahore on Tuesday and protesters in the capital Islamabad stormed a diplomatic enclave.

Political leaders from all groups rallied behind Copenhagen in a special debate in the European Parliament, declaring that an attack on Denmark was an attack on all member states and condemning the resort to violence by some Islamic protesters.

Libertarians warned against any attempt to make the media adopt self-censorship.

"I want here today to send my solidarity to the people of Denmark," European Commission president Jose Manuel Barroso said, calling Danes "a people who rightly enjoy the reputation of being among the most open and tolerant not just in Europe but in the world."

Danish goods have been boycotted in some Islamic countries and Barroso was strongly applauded when he said such action was by definition a boycott of European goods.

Greens leader Daniel Cohn-Bendit condemned companies such as French hypermarket chain Carrefour and Swiss food giant Nestle for issuing notices in Muslim countries saying they were not Danish or did not stock Danish goods.

He and liberal spokesperson Karen Riis-Joergensen urged the European Commission to drop the idea of encouraging the media to adopt a voluntary code of conduct to avoid offending religious sensibilities.

"If we start undermining freedom of expression, our right to analyze any religion critically, our fundamental right to speak freely and express ourselves will be violated," Riis-Joergensen said. *Reuters, AFP*

Cheney breaks silence on Texas shooting

WHITTINGTON in 1980 photo. AP

WASHINGTON—VICE PRESIDENT Dick Cheney took the blame on Wednesday for accidentally shooting a friend while bird hunting and said it was "one of the worst days of my life," but rejected criticism that he waited too long to make it public.

Under pressure from Democrats and some Republicans to break his silence about his shooting of 78-year-old Texas lawyer Harry Whittington on Saturday, Cheney described the incident to the Fox News Channel in dramatic fashion.

"The image of him falling is something that I'll never be able to get out of my mind. I fired and there's Harry falling.

"And it was, I'd have to say, one of the worst days of my life at that moment," Cheney said.

Cheney's interview with Fox was his first public comment on the accident and came amid a mounting furor that news of the shooting was not disclosed to the media sooner.

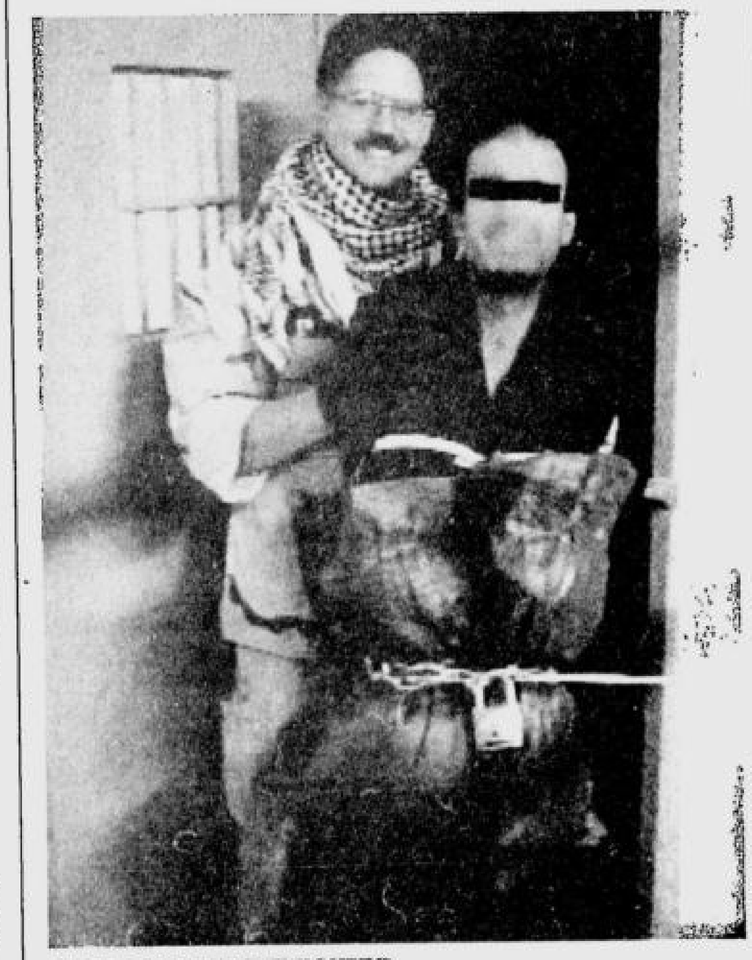
Cheney left it up to Katherine Armstrong, owner of the Texas ranch that hosted the shooting party, to tell The Corpus Christi Caller-Times newspaper at least 18 hours after the shooting occurred.

Cheney's goal in speaking now was to avoid the incident becoming a liability to President George W. Bush at a time when both men have low job approval ratings and are trying to keep Republican control of Congress in an election year.

Democrats accused Cheney of a pattern of secrecy and said his interview with one news organization was not enough.

"The vice president hasn't had a press conference in three and a half years and he ought to have one to clear the air not only on this issue, but more importantly on the many other issues that have been shrouded by a veil of secrecy," said New York Democratic Sen. Charles Schumer.

Taking the blame for the shooting, Cheney told Fox: "You can talk about all of the other conditions that existed at the time, but that's the bottom line. And it's not Harry's fault." *Reuters*



ABU GHRAIB REVISITED

A TV frame grab shows an image made available by Australia's Special Broadcasting Service Feb. 15 of what the broadcaster says is a detainee being abused in Iraq's Abu Ghraib prison taken in 2003. SBS said they were taken at the same time as the photographs of US soldiers abusing Iraqi prisoners inside Abu Ghraib. REUTERS

Study: Calcium, vit. D give little help to bones

BOSTON—THE BIGGEST STUDY ever of calcium and vitamin D supplements for older women showed they offered only limited protection against broken bones, raising questions over what has been an article of faith among doctors and nutritionists.

The supplements seemed to reduce the risk of broken hips in women over 60 and also helped those who took the supplements most regularly. But as to preventing bone fractures overall, vitamin D and calcium flunked in these healthy women.

One of the researchers, Dr. Norman Lasser at New Jersey Medical School, said the study is "not as ringing an endorsement of calcium as one might like."

Even so, many experts said they would stand behind federal guidelines recommending the supplements, if needed, to meet standard intake of calcium and vitamin D.

"There's probably a small benefit," said Dr. Joel Finkelstein, of Massachusetts General Hospital, who wrote an editorial in the New England Journal of Medicine where the study appeared Thursday. "It's a good start, but women at higher risk need to know it's not enough."

The findings were an offshoot of the big national study of diet and hormone therapy known as the Women's Health Initiative.

Osteoporosis touches an estimated 10 million Americans, making their bones prone to break. One of two women will suffer such a fracture in her lifetime.

For women over age 50, federal guidelines recommend 1,200 milligrams of bone-building calcium and 400-600 international units of vitamin D daily from diet and, if needed, supplements. *AP*

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Japan opens latest airport

KOBE, JAPAN—Japan's latest airport opened Thursday in Kobe, a controversial multibillion-dollar project aimed at boosting the economy a decade after the western city's devastating earthquake.

Dubbed "Marine Air" as it is built on reclaimed land with a view of the ocean, Kobe is the second major new airport to open in Japan in as many years.

Centrair opened in February 2005 near the central industrial city of Nagoya.

Kobe Airport, costing 314 billion yen ($2.7 billion), is the third gateway to the region. It was built even though Kansai International Airport, opened nearby in 1994, is still struggling to draw enough passengers.

The new airport has a 2,500-meter runway, long enough for jumbo jets, but for now the airport will only serve small-size planes on seven domestic routes.

Some 3.2 million passengers are expected in the first year.

"We hereby declare the opening of Kobe Airport," Mayor Tatsuo Yada told an early morning ceremony attended by Japan Airlines president Toshiyuki Shinmachi and executives from rival All Nippon Airways. *AFP*

WORLDBRIEFS

Saddam warned terrorists would hit US

WASHINGTON—Saddam Hussein told aides he warned America before 1990 that terrorists would launch a huge strike on US soil, even raising the specter of a nuclear attack, according to secret tapes obtained by ABC News. The toppled Iraqi leader is heard on the recordings he made in his presidential office during the 1990s, ruling out any such strike by Iraq. The recordings also feature members of Saddam's family talking about how to conceal data on illegal weapons programs from UN inspectors, according to ABC which was to show the tapes late Wednesday. "Terrorism is coming. I told the Americans a long time before Aug. 2 and told the British as well and that in the future there will be terrorism with weapons of mass destruction," Saddam is heard to say on the tapes. The mention of "Aug. 2" on the tape, which ABC said was recorded in the mid 1990s, appears to be a reference to the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait on Aug. 2, 1990. Saddam, who is now on trial in Baghdad for war crimes, speculates that an attack with such weapons could be difficult to stop. "In the future, what would prevent a booby trapped car causing a nuclear explosion in Washington or a germ or a chemical one?" he said, but added Iraq would not contemplate such an act. *AFP*

Europe urges calm as bird flu spreads

BRUSSELS—European leaders took urgent new action Wednesday to counter fast-multiplying outbreaks of bird flu, ordering poultry indoors to avoid infection but urging consumers not to panic. The European Union's executive arm also warned that it expects more cases as warm spring weather brings a seasonal migration of swans and other wild birds carrying the potentially lethal disease. As Germany became the latest EU country to confirm the lethal H5N1 strain of the disease, EU health experts agreed to ban all imports of untreated feathers to further reduce the "high risk" of the disease spreading. "Today's decision ... was taken in light of the rapid spread of avian influenza over the past months and the current high risk of the disease spreading further," said the European Commission. So far, the presence of H5N1 virus—which in its highly pathogenic form can be fatal to humans—has been confirmed in recent days in Bulgaria, Greece, Italy, Romania and the European part of Russia. Preliminary tests have proved positive in Austria, while Croatia, Hungary, Slovenia and Ukraine are investigating suspected cases. *AFP*

Court sides with Jackson's ex-wife

ROWE REUTERS

LOS ANGELES—An appeals court on Wednesday refused to reinstate an order granting Michael Jackson sole custody of his two children with ex-wife Debbie Rowe. California's 2nd District Court of Appeals said that while Rowe signed away her parental rights in 2001 to the 47-year-old performer's two oldest children, Michael Jr. and Paris, it found that the judge in that case did not properly handle the proceedings. Rowe, who was married to Jackson from 1997 to 1999 but never lived with the self-styled King of Pop, persuaded a Los Angeles Superior Court judge to overturn the child custody agreement in 2004 on legal grounds. Rowe's petition cited accusations of child molestation against Jackson and his association with the Nation of Islam, whose members briefly provided security for the singer during the trial. The case ended with Jackson's acquittal in June of 2005. *Reuters*

Deal reached to declare Preval winner

PORT-AU-PRINCE, Haiti—Interim government and election officials announced early Thursday they reached agreement to declare Rene Preval the winner of Haiti's presidential elections. "We have reached a solution to the problem," said Max Mathurin, president of the Provisional Electoral Council. "We acknowledge the final decision of the electoral council and salute the election of Mr. Rene Preval as president of the republic of Haiti," Prime Minister Gerard Latortue said. *AP*

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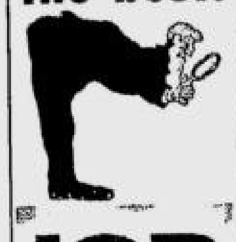

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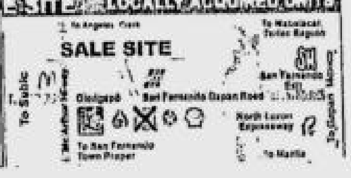

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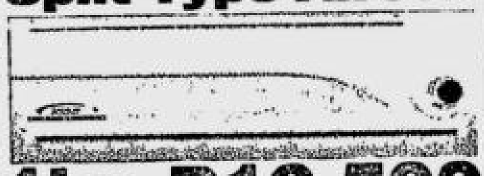

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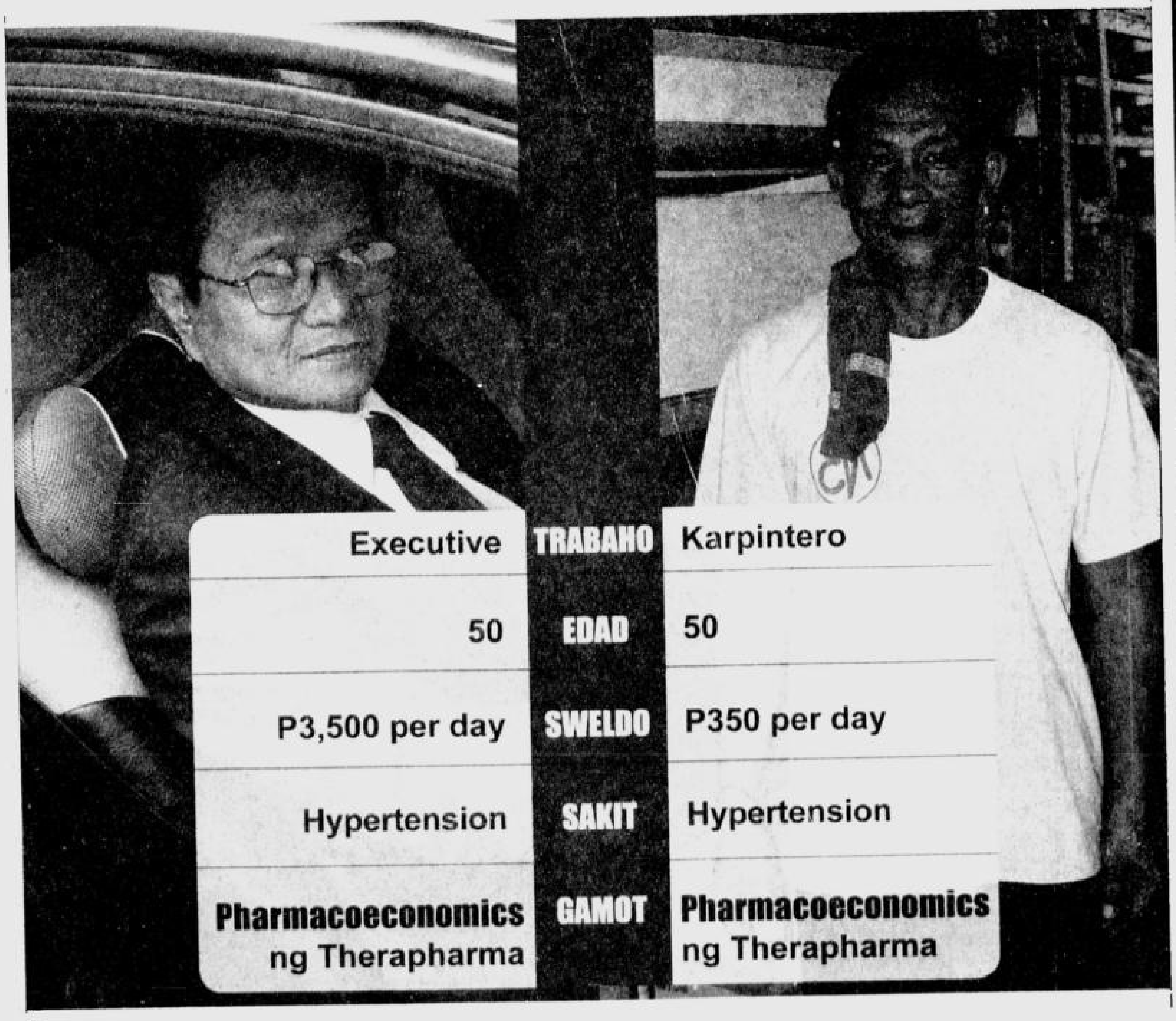

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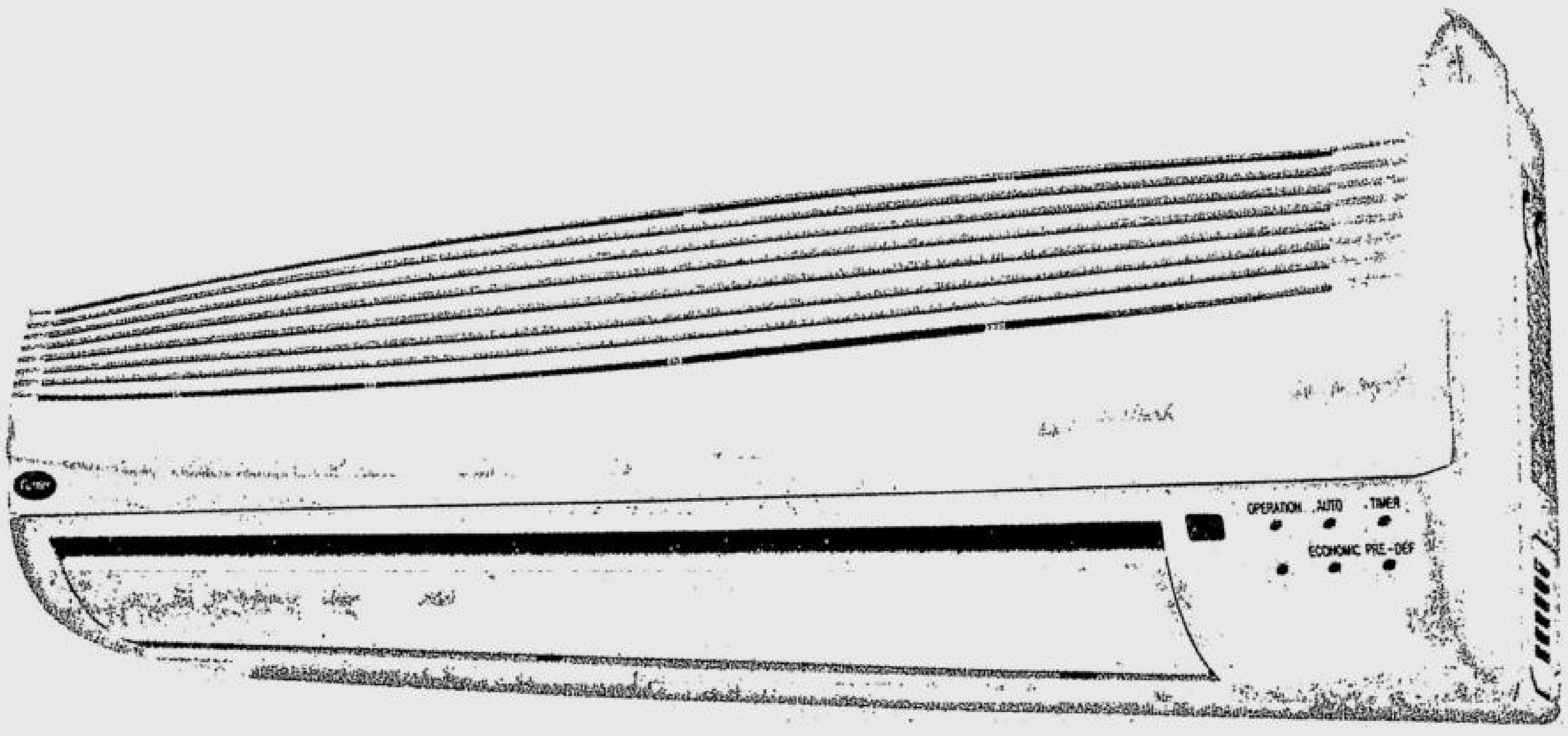

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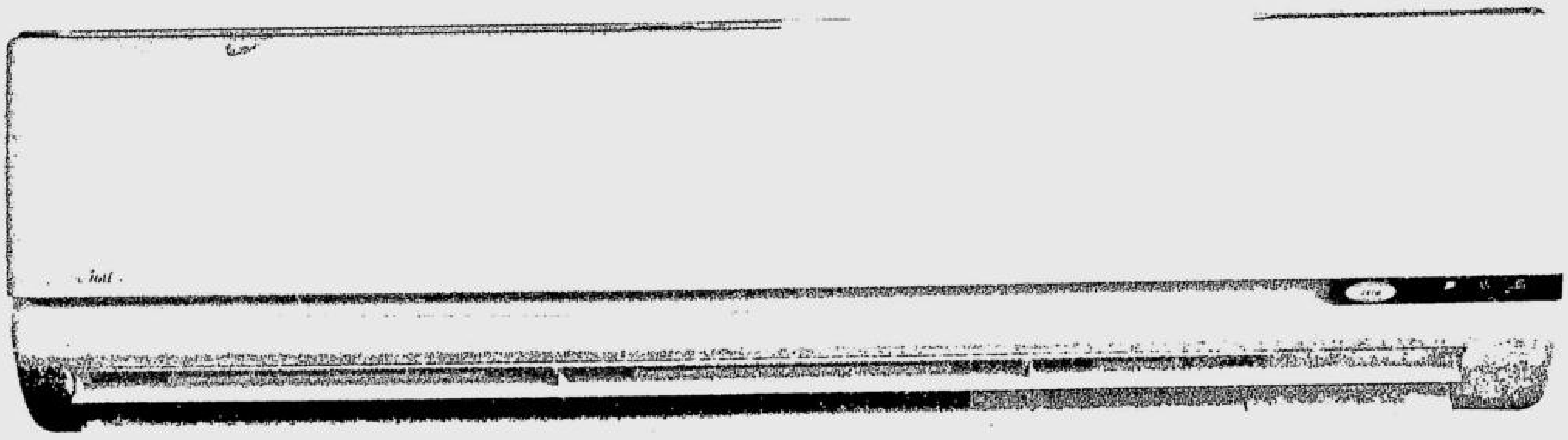

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OPINION

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Factual vacuum

EDITORIAL

THE JOINT REPORT OF THE FIVE COMMITTEES OF the House of Representatives that looked into the "Hello Garci" wiretapping issue has been revised. The reaction of Cavite Rep. Gilbert Remulla, while juvenile (he says it lacks "spice"), does indicate that the report cannot yet be viewed as final. Still, in its present incarnation, the revised report suggests that after all the exertions of the House, not much has been achieved. The House committees indicate that their inquiry has raised more questions than were answered; and that they have failed to arrive at the ultimate facts that would dispel the allegations raised against President Macapagal-Arroyo and her campaign team (official and unofficial).

Still, as it stands, the joint committee report does include some damning statements. With regard to the participation of the President's official family and other subordinates in the hearings, the report weighs their contribution as worse than minimal: "No witness from the administration made a single contribution to arriving at the truth." The report concludes with the disturbing observation: "In sum, on one hand, a conspiracy clearly existed to topple the President by embarrassing her with the so-called Garci tapes; on the other hand, the administration could not and would not confront the tapes and contributed nothing toward arriving at the truth about them." Congress could not get to the bottom of the conspiracy, just as it could neither compel nor cajole the President's people to do more than fanatically defend their superior's political and legal interests.

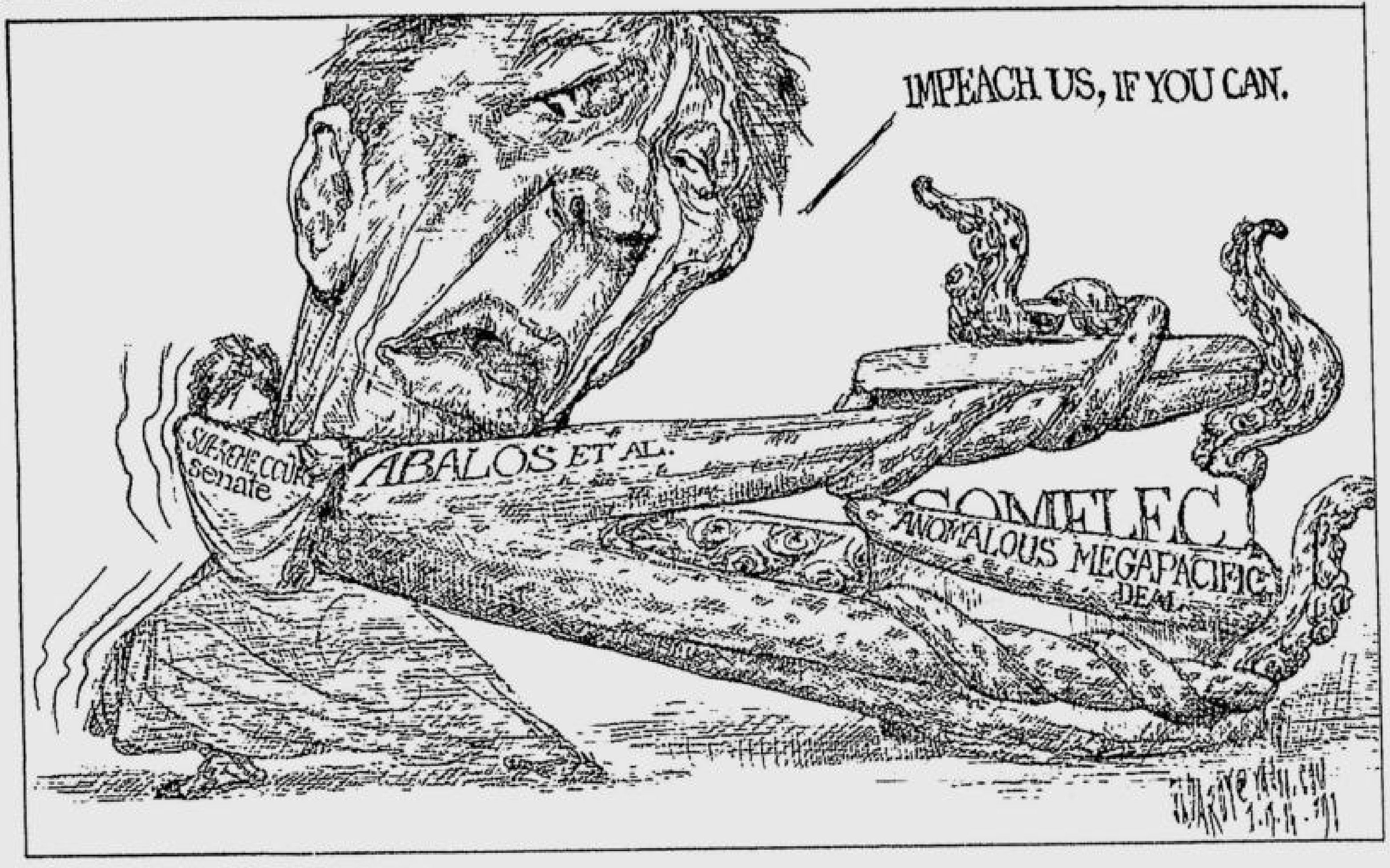
The best that the House could do, limited as it is, by the need to justify its exertions by proposing new legislation, is submit a menu of options for Congress to pursue with regard to existing laws. It also suggests more investigations, inquires, and even the filing of cases against people like T/Sgt. Vidal Doble and the arrest of lawyer Samuel Ong, who refused to answer the committees' summons.

Most surprising of all, however, is that none of the participating committees showed an inclination to ponder the lessons from the hearings. The biggest lesson of all is, as we have pointed out in the past, the institutional incapacity of Congress, outside an actual impeachment trial, to arrive at the ultimate facts. There is no recommendation or even mention of legislation that would address the institutional flaw that prevents government agencies from rationally, professionally and non-politically pursuing proper investigations. Surely, an independent counsel law is needed now more than ever.

Predictably, the continuing failure of Congress to resolve things has led to a new round of pious pleadings for "closure" from the administration and its allies. The President's lawyer, Romeo Macalintal, points to the findings of the Presidential Electoral Tribunal on the votes from Cebu province. The examination of votes being done by the PET in connection with the protest of vice presidential candidate Loren Legarda proves his principal won, says Macalintal. While indeed, the President and her people have insisted from Day One, that an electoral landslide in that province put the President over the top, neither she nor her lawyer seems to see that the questions continue to extend far beyond—and prior—to the actual, official election results in Cebu.

To begin with, prior to the proclamation of the President, Cebu's was just one, and not even the main one, of provincial results put forward for further examination by the opposition. Subsequent research by various groups, and this includes the media, points to a question quite separate from whether the official numbers reflect the real votes, a kind of forensic accounting case. There remains serious questions concerning whether or not the President and her people cheated in, or tried to manipulate the results of, the elections. These questions acquired particular relevance in the case of former Election Commissioner Virgilio Garcillano's turf: Mindanao.

Closure can only come when these questions are confronted squarely and answered satisfactorily, and not just glossed over or dismissed outright as the administration and its allies in the House have been doing.



'La Niña' may be a blessing in disguise

AS I SEE IT

Neal H. Cruz

THE PREDICTED "LA NIÑA" WEATHER PHEnomenon (of heavy rains even during summer, the opposite of drought caused by "El Niño") can be a blessing in disguise to Filipino rice farmers. Our farmers cannot produce enough rice for lack of water. With an excess of rainwater, they can now produce two crops of palay during the year.

Not only that, land previously planted to other dry season crops like tobacco and garlic and onions can now be planted to rice. Which means the farmers of Northern Luzon and Pangasinan will have to plant rice or other water-loving plants instead of their usual summer crops. Thus, there may be plenty of rice but a scarcity of garlic and onions and higher prices for cigarettes and cigars.

It is a paradox that the Philippines, a rice-producing country, has to import rice, which we used to produce in excess and export. Another paradox is that rice from other countries is cheaper than rice harvested here. Which is why imported rice is smuggled into the country since smugglers still make a profit selling imported rice bought cheap even if the transportation expenses are added to the cost.

And still another paradox: Did you know that it is cheaper to ship rice from Singapore to the Philippines than from the farms of Mindanao to Manila? That is why it is cheaper to import rice than to grow our own.

Agriculture Secretary Domingo Panganiban was a guest of Kapihan sa Manila last Monday and he explained our confusing agriculture and food situation.

Food security has become an important concern of the Philippines. Filipino farmers produce only half of our needs. We fill up the shortfall with imports.

Why don't our farmers produce more? Because selling prices are low—less than production cost. Most farmers produce only enough for their consumption. There is no incentive to produce more. Why plant a crop that you can sell only at a loss?

Isn't the National Food Authority mandated to give price support to rice farmers? Yes, and it is doing this, buying high and selling low. But because the NFA does not get any budget from the national government, it now has incurred losses amounting to P50 billion borrowed from the banks and which it doesn't know how to pay. Even so, the NFA can buy only 10 percent of the farmers' harvests. The farmers are thus left to the mercy of exploitative traders who offer prices lower than the production cost. As a result, farmers are now producing palay at a loss, except for a few who plant hybrid rice, which covers only 10 percent of irrigated areas. Upland or rainfed farmers (about three million families) cannot participate in the hybrid rice program because they are not included in the target area of the government. Hybrid rice needs plenty of water—and fertilizer—but the yield can be three times the ordinary yield.

So why doesn't the government raise the price support to give the farmer just compensation for his labors? Because that would make rice, the Filipinos' staple food, expensive to consumers and make an already unpopular government even more unpopular.

Why can our neighbors like Thailand and Vietnam produce rice cheaper than we do? Because, according to Panganiban, they have more hectares planted to rice, have more irrigated areas, and get subsidies from their governments.

And that is how we have come to feed half of the Filipinos with rice from Thailand, Vietnam and other countries.

We cannot continue doing this for long. For one thing, prices in the world market have gone up. For another, Thailand, one of the world's biggest rice exporters, announced recently that it may no longer export rice, for its own food security. And China is buying up all the surplus rice available in the world market, which is only 5 percent of total world production. Therefore, even if we have the dollars to import rice, it may no longer be available, which will mean a rice shortage here.

On the other hand, the farmers, given the right price, will produce more than what they are producing now. And if the irrigation system is expanded and the present irrigation canals and dams are rehabilitated, and the price of fertilizer lowered (not overpriced and stolen by congressmen), the farmers can increase their yield per hectare. Which is why "La Niña" is probably godsent.

But even if Mindanao produces plenty of rice, it would still be costly by the time it reaches Metro Manila. Why? Because of the cabotage law, which gives higher rates to interisland ships than to international vessels, said Panganiban.

Why not repeal the cabotage law? Legislators are reluctant to do that because of the lobby of local shipping companies.

Why doesn't the President certify a bill repealing the cabotage law? Ask Malacañang.

"The rice industry is an P80-billion a year industry," said V.L. Sony Domingo of the Agri-Fishery News Service. "Farmers spend at least P30 billion a year to plant palay. When they sell to the traders (because the NFA does not have enough money to buy all their produce at support prices), the farmers get P1 less per kilo than their production cost. This is so they can pay back their loans because they have no other source of income except planting rice. Besides, they cannot plant anything else during the rainy season because of flooding and nothing else during the dry season because of lack of irrigation (except for irrigated areas). The question is, who profits from the difference of P50 billion a year?"

The intolerant versus the irreligious

PASSION FOR REASON

Raul C. Pangalangan

THE WORLDWIDE FUROR OVER THE SATIRIcal cartoons reached Manila only this week, with the protests and flag burning near the Embassy of Denmark, but the debate over religious or ethnic sensitivity and the freedom of speech has raged in the courts for a while already.

The famous Skokie case in the United States single-handedly caused the largest wave of resignations from the American Civil Liberties Union. The ACLU defended swastika-bearing Nazis who wanted to march through Skokie, Illinois, home to many Holocaust survivors and their families. The residents objected, citing a local ordinance banning speech that incited racial or religious hatred. The US Supreme Court struck down the ordinance as unconstitutional, even if it would inflict severe psychic trauma to the community.

The state has no right to "cleanse public debate to the point where it is grammatically palatable to the most squeamish among us," said the Court which pointed out that "one man's vulgarity is another's lyric." It has been wrongly assumed that "incitement to violence" alone is a ground for censorship. Courts have held that speech that "stirs the audience to anger" or "invites dispute" is precisely the kind of speech protected by the Bill of Rights because by being challenging and emotive, they provoke debate and discussion, the goal of the free-speech guarantee.

Moreover, allowing the state to silence a speaker whenever the audience threatens violence would amount to a "heckler's veto." It will empower a hostile or highly sensitive audience to silence a speaker whose ideas they disdain, and allow the state—in the guise of keeping the peace—to help noisy bullies drown out their enemies' voices.

On the other hand, hate speech has been held to deserve less constitutional protection. They are "injury-specific", i.e. "those which by their very utterance inflict injury," and the listener is hurt even before he gets to reflect on the words uttered. Some hate speech can also be "fighting words" profanities, foul and disgusting language—that form "no essential part of any exposition of ideas, and are of such slight social value as a step to truth that any benefit that may be derived from them is clearly outweighed by the social interest in order and morality."

Closer to home, the Philippine Supreme Court has actually faced a case even more offensive than the Danish cartoon—and free speech won the day!

In MVRS v. Islamic Da'wah Council, 70 Muslim organizations sued a tabloid for insulting Muslims by saying that they do not eat pork because they worship pigs as sacred animals, a claim that is outright silly, false and "utterly profane"—in the words of the Court, it is the "complete opposite of what Muslims hold dear and disparage[s] Muslims and cast[s] insult on Islam as a religion." The Muslim petitioners however had sued for defamation, and the Court threw out the case because the hurtful speech maligned a large class of people, a group "too vast as to readily ascertain who among [them was] particularly defamed." The Court cited an older case, when sugarcane planters in Bacolod sued Newsweek after it vilified their group as exploiting poor, ignorant sacadas.

Significantly, one justice proposed that the remedy is for the victims to sue for damages and make the tabloid liable for intentional tort when it humiliated them because of their creed. The victims, "despite the outrageous profanity hurled at them ... chose not to join their secessionist brethren in the armed struggle but instead decided to petition our courts for legal redress. .... They could have easily retaliated by flinging their own blasphemous invectives against the Christian religion .... answering profanity with more profanity."

In another case, the Iglesia ni Cristo had a TV program to "propagate [its] religious beliefs, doctrines and practices often in comparative studies with other religions." In 1992, the Board of Review for Motion Pictures and Television stopped their broadcast because of its "attack[s] against other religions." Apparently, the show contained rather pointed criticism of Roman Catholic and Protestant doctrines.

The Supreme Court held that though the board "may disagree with the criticisms of other religions ... that gives it no excuse to interdict such criticisms, however unclean they may be. .... Religious dogmas and beliefs are often at war and to preserve peace among their followers, especially the fanatics, the [separation of Church and State clause] prohibits the State from leaning towards any religion."

We should "respect the fair criticism of religious principles, including those which may be outrageously appalling, immensely erroneous, or those couched as fairly informative comments." To entangle the courts in religious debates "would necessarily make the civil courts a battle to assert [competing] spiritual ideas."

Finally, the Court warned against using the test of "contemporary Filipino standards." This would "simply provide the Board with a veiled excuse for clamping down against unorthodox religious thought and expression. [The freedom of religion] not only insulates religion against governmental power, but ... protect[s] religious minorities by preventing the use of that power in imposing the majority's will."

The Danish cartoons, however offensive some may find them, may be cause for outrage but not for censorship. Traditional liberals adopt a hands-off policy, and profess neutrality to all values. The irony is that faced with belligerence, we find ourselves espousing tolerance as a value, and imposing it upon the intolerant.

* * *

Comments to passionforreason@gmail.com

Media in the hot seat

ANALYSIS

Amando Doronila

BY AN UNCANNY COINCIDENCE, THE FEB. 6 stampede at the PhilSports Arena broke out at a time when multimedia practitioners were holding their annual "Media Nation 3" summit in Clark to examine the relationship between media and the market.

One participant is reported to have summed up the theme as "giving the market what it wants." No event could have driven home the theme more powerfully than the shocking news of the stampede triggered by an entertainment program labeled by its producers as giving the market "what it wants," meaning consumers of the show.

The network that staged the show may fall in the category of a "service provider," an impersonal and technical term some modern media giant combines, including proprietors of newspapers and radio-TV networks, like to use in describing their services. Under this concept, consumers of entertainment shows and newspaper readers have been reduced to statistical digits before which editors and TV show promoters worship in their relentless competition for "ratings." In the newspaper industry, the equivalent of "ratings" is "circulation." The rationale behind these ratings and circulation wars is that the higher the ratings and the wider the circulation, the bigger the share in the shrinking advertising revenues.

The fierce competition for ratings determines the content of the "service" they render to an abstract mass composed of inanimate objects—not warm bodies with minds that have the capacity to think and discern what is good or bad and with hearts that respond to the pain of human tragedy.

Thus, when the delivery of a "service" to satisfy what "the market wants," results in mayhem, the casualties of these disturbances become statistics in a morgue. Under this concept of impersonal relationship between service providers and service consumers, it is hard to establish the responsibility and public accountability of service providers, all of whom piously claim that they are delivering "services" that are in the "public interest." The term "service providers" does not capture the essence of journalism as a profession that delivers knowledge that enriches the human mind and that ennobles the human spirit. Service providers can also embrace delivery of hospitality services in brothels.

In this abstract determination of the content of media output that "the market wants," editors are being increasingly pushed out from their traditional central role of deciding what news to print or not to print, by the intervention of accountants and business managers pandering to the transient demands of the market. Editors have become increasingly marginalized by the market. The managers of news have become less autonomous in making judgments on what goes into the newspapers, and the advertising and marketing arms of newspapers and networks have exercised more influence on what the world and the nation would look like today because they produce the advertising revenues.

The erosion of editorial prerogative and judgment resulting from the encroachment of market-oriented criteria in decision-making on media content is illustrated by the intervention at the media summit of an advertising executive who advised media executives "to go where the ratings go." Advertising executives at the same time recognized the need for quality programs and useful news and public affairs programs. "Ethical journalism" was cited as an approach to create a market for media products that the market can support.

There is a big conundrum in this issue. In the race to get "where the ratings go," editors are guided more by tools that identify where the market is—and I mean the opinion surveys—and less by their instincts on what news is in the public interest or what the public "has the right to know."

Newspapers regularly run surveys (including this newspaper) to identify their consumer markets and to find what readers across socio-economic classes want and like to read. The information derived from these surveys have limited value in creating a market for "ethical journalism" that the market can support. It has been suggested that the media have "to go out of (their) way to establish that clamor (for good quality programs, news and public affairs programs) from the public."

A review of these surveys reveals that the public mood is volatile, often shifting with the currents of public opinion. There are great quality newspapers which command influence and power. Their circulations are not as massive as those of the tabloids. The quality newspapers have their market, but that's the market they are going to serve.

Great editors and great newspapers are not creatures of surveys. They are guided by their instincts in determining what is good news—instincts honed by their experience and insights and commonsensical norms about "ethical journalism."

My idea of ethical journalism is not too complicated. The test of ethical and useful journalism is that it delivers news that is for the "greatest good for the greatest number." All other notions, such as the right of the public to know, flow from this.

The history of great newspapers and great editors shows that their success has not rested on surveys but on the delivery of news that informs best and that the public can trust. Editors must rely on their sixth sense and instincts more than on cold statistics of surveys. They have to put their thumb on the pulse of warm bodies of public opinion and listen to their messages. The success of great newspapers proves the dictum that civic virtue—based on providing news for the "greatest good for the greatest number"—has its rewards.

Careless disregard

AT LARGE

Rina Jimenez-David

AVID FANS OF "CSI," ITS SPIN-OFFS BASED IN Miami and New York, as well as of the various shows featuring the forensics work behind the solution of both real and imagined cases will recognize the foolishness—if not neglect—behind the destruction of the shabu *talipapa* in Pasig.

Led by Pasig Mayor Vicente Eusebio, a wrecking crew tore down Wednesday the shacks and shanties that once constituted a small chain of "restaurants" in a compound where customers could buy some shabu and even rent the paraphernalia needed to get high on the illegal substance.

The compound was raided in a surprise operation that netted some 300 suspects, including women and children, some of them pregnant girls. Some of them later tested positive for drug use.

Eusebio defended the unannounced demolition as showing that the Pasig City government was "sincere in the war against drugs."

The Pasig City police chief, drugs enforcement officials and the barangay chair have been dismissed and charges have been filed against them in relation to the raid. Certainly, the existence of a thriving drug operation virtually right under the noses of officials and police was an embarrassment to the Pasig City government. But is that reason enough for the hurried demolition of the structures in the compound, less than a week after the raid?

PNP officials have expressed dismay at the demolition, saying important evidence could have been destroyed when the shanties were torn down. Indeed, police said, drug paraphernalia were still scattered about the area, while the shanty walls bore "markings" that may have had to do with the drug business.

What would Gil Grissom, the chief CSI in the hit TV series, have to say if the demolition took place in his jurisdiction? I bet he would have chewed out whoever was responsible for it, including the mayor.

* * *

THE MAYOR'S action is puzzling and disturbing mainly because it comes too late and was of little use.

In TV interviews, Eusebio was caught on video defending the action of his boys, saying it was to prevent residents and drug dealers from sneaking into the compound and resuming their lucrative trade. But he could very well have simply posted police and *tanods* to guard the area, preserving the evidence which by the way was supposed to have been protected by yellow "Do Not Cross" police tape.

A news report in this paper also quoted him as denying his alleged links to drug activities, supposedly because he did not "look" the part of a druggie and that he was rich even before his entry into politics and supposedly did not need to engage in such illicit activities to augment his income.

He may well have been motivated solely by a need to save face and resurrect Pasig's civic pride, but Eusebio's eagerness to destroy evidence gathered as a result of a sensational police operation brings his motives to question. What was so urgent about razing the shabu community?

If he was all that concerned about the proliferation of cheap and illegal drugs in his city, Eusebio should have done something about the drug dens just half a kilometer from City Hall. Why move so swiftly and decisively only after the operations had been busted and the operators and customers hauled to jail?

* * *

THE MAYOR'S ham-fisted action simply demonstrates the disregard with which police and law enforcement officials hold criminal evidence.

Lawyers have long asserted that Philippine police treat physical evidence so casually because they don't believe in it, nor are they equipped with the technical skills to glean information from them or make the right conclusions. Police here prefer instead to extract "confessions" from suspects, intimately acquainted as they are with various methods of making anyone own up to a crime. There is no lack of jobless, homeless drifters in the country who can be coerced into confessing to having shot Jose Rizal.

A friend of mine recalls being called to the home of a relative who had been stabbed to death and finding the doors of the house thrown open and almost the entire barangay milling inside it. "Police were even using the telephone to call their headquarters and it had not even been dusted!" she recalled with a shudder.

We might also remember the case of a judge who died in a Cebu hotel, a death which had been attributed to suicide. A note was allegedly found inside the room, but the evidence ultimately proved useless because of careless handling by the responding police, one of whom even used the ball pen lying beside the alleged suicide note to take down his own notes.

Women's groups also say that many years ago, they distributed "rape kits," which are meant to facilitate the gathering of evidence in alleged rape cases, to different police precincts and government hospitals but to their dismay, they found the kits lying unused years later, the police preferring the aforementioned "confessions" to make their case.

* * *

THESE days, there's greater awareness of the role that forensics plays in the solution of crimes. The PNP's anger at Eusebio's action is a good sign in itself, indicative of the value they place on the physical evidence that could have been used to prosecute the drug profiteers in the Pasig *talipapa*.

But it also seems they're willing to go easy on Eusebio, with police officials even now acknowledging that they had already taken video footage and photographs of the restaurants which could be used during the trial, in lieu of an actual tour of what could have been Pasig's latest tourist attraction.

Eusebio seems about ready to extricate himself from any responsibility in the PhilSports Arena tragedy. Should he be allowed to get off the hook in the case of the demolition?

Stories artifacts tell

LOOKING BACK

Ambeth R. Ocampo

FILIPINOS USUALLY HAVE TO BE REMINDED that in our long history, our country's oldest friend is not Japan, the United States or even Spain which ruled us from 1565-1898. The oldest friend of the Philippines is China. We see this from the archeological artifacts recovered from land and sea in different parts of the country. Whenever my students visit the National Museum they are so overwhelmed by the display of Oriental ceramics they vow never to look at another blue and white artifact again for the next 10 years. What is usually lost on them is that these often broken and incomplete pieces of ceramics document a relationship of trade and friendship that goes even beyond recorded history.

One can only wonder what kind of historical records on the Philippines will be found in China. What little I have read usually concerns trade, specifically the "Nanhai Trade" when the Chinese traded silk and porcelain for raw and finished products from the area they called the "South Seas." The Chinese had boats that covered both the Eastern and Western seas. There was no global positioning equipment at the time but they found their directions through the stars and timed their outbound and homeward voyages according to the monsoons. Trading ships left China in the winter months and sailed with the north wind behind them, and returned in the summer. There were two routes: the Western route went via Vietnam, Thailand, Malaysia, Java and reached as far as Zanzibar in Africa. The Eastern route is what concerns us because this passed the Philippines, Borneo and the Moluccas.

It must also be noted here that the Chinese porcelain that has been found in the Philippines sometimes came through Arab trading ships.

Aside from Chinese porcelain, archeological sites in the Philippines have yielded artifacts from Vietnam, Thailand and Cambodia, making us wonder even more if these were all brought by Chinese and Arab traders or whether there was direct trade with ships from these neighboring countries. My fascination with these now collectible pieces of porcelain led me to join the Oriental Ceramic Society of the Philippines which holds a monthly lecture on various aspects of the subject. I rarely miss the erudite lectures of Rita Ching Tan who is one of the leading experts on porcelain in the country today. It is possible, given the current research, not only to identify and date excavated ceramics but, more importantly, to sometimes trace the kiln in China where the piece was made and thus trace out on a map the route traders took to our shores.

What interests me more than the beauty of excavated ceramics is their use in pre-colonial times. For example, what use was a celadon brush washer or a blue and white bird feeder to a pre-Hispanic Filipino? What did they put in the numerous jarlets, saucers and bowls found in pre-Hispanic graves? Why is it that there are many small vessels found in Luzon compared to bigger pieces in Mindanao?

When one looks at the type and distribution of the excavated artifacts, one can surely find a story, or a pattern. Then one must ask what the pre-colonial Pinoy gave the Chinese and Arab traders in exchange for these porcelain pieces. Naturally, the trading ships needed fresh water, food and other provisions, but there must have been more items being bartered.

Offhand one would imagine that the Chinese came for pearls and bird's nests. They were also on the lookout for "beautiful maidens," and one wonders if some of them were sourced from our shores.

A list of goods exchanged is compiled in a 1985 publication of the Southeast Asian Ceramic Society West Malaysia Chapter, entitled "A Ceramic Legacy of Asia's Maritime Trade." The list may not be complete, but it says a lot not just about trade, but taste in general—what was considered valuable or even exotic. The more predictable items would be ivory tusks, gongs of gold and silver, woven mats and various textiles like silk and cotton. Then there are the semi-precious stones like amber, agate and cat's eye. In the Philippines, people coveted metals like lead, tin, silver, bronze and steel. I remember reading in another source that Filipinos brought tribute to China that included tortoise shell and green parrots!

Cloves, nutmeg, rose-water, rose-apple (Eugenia jambosa), sandalwood benzoin, civet are ordinary on a list that include Arabian glass and white yaks. What I found interesting are: palm leaves (What were they used for? How were these preserved after being cut from the tree?); kingfisher feathers; and even peacock feathers.

Rhinoceros horn I always presumed to be used as medicine or aphrodisiacs, but there were different types: semi-transparent, medicinal, decorative and "ordinary" (whatever that meant). The Chinese also presented gifts like sedan chairs, umbrellas and swords. Copper coins were accepted currency in Southeast Asia, and these were so much in demand that it came to a point when the coins actually became scarce in China itself.

E. Arsenio Manuel sounded the challenge when he declared "where history ends anthropology begins." Archeology has always fascinated me not for the excavated artifacts themselves but for the stories these artifacts tell.

* * *

Comments are welcome at aocampo@ateneo.edu

Drugs and the law

PINOY KASI

Michael L. Tan

I WASN'T SURPRISED WHEN I LEARNED ABOUT THE police raid on a 600-sq m lot in Pasig, with some 40 shanties selling illegal drugs. They were doing this much like roadside restaurants, complete with menus. "*Shabu tiangge*," some newspapers called it. Others described it as a shabu supermarket.

And yet it's fairly common knowledge that Metro Manila and other large Philippine cities are now saturated with drug dens. In Cebu City, there are even "shooting galleries," where drug dependents go to get their drugs injected intravenously.

What did shock me about this place in Pasig was the scale of the operations. The police arrested some 300 people, including 59 minors. There were at least two pregnant minors, one aged 17 and the other 14.

Besides the drug use, there was also prostitution. Apparently some of the women drug users were selling themselves to pushers if they didn't have money to support their habit.

All of this was happening half a kilometer away from the Pasig City Hall and the Eastern Police District headquarters. And in broad daylight (the raid took place around noon). What was it like in this place at night? I wondered.

Shoot 'em

Several policemen and operatives from the Philippine Drug Enforcement Authority (PDEA) have been suspended, while our politicians, from the President down, are now talking tough about the drug problem. So far though, the action taken has been one investigation after another, with Congress now trying to get into the act. Congress will probably review the laws and propose an increase in penalties.

"Shoot the pushers!" vigilante groups will proclaim, as if they're not already doing this. Every few days we hear of corpses floating down rivers, and communities identifying them to be suspected drug pushers.

But this police model of responding to drugs with more laws and harsher penalties just isn't working. In fact, I'd argue it worsens our drug problem.

This happens for two reasons. First, it does little to address the needs for drug prevention and rehabilitation of dependents. Second, the law actually gives even more opportunities for the corruption that allows the drug problem to grow.

In 1972, Marcos decreed a Dangerous Drugs Act which included the imposition of the death penalty for drug pushing. To show he meant business, Marcos had a drug dealer, Lim Seng, executed by firing squad, the grisly event well covered by mass media.

For a short period after that, the drug trade subsided, but with time, it was back to normal for pushers and users, drugs passed out together with canapés at the parties of the rich and the famous. The Dangerous Drugs Act itself became almost irrelevant, as drug use patterns changed. It did not include, for example, metamphetamine or shabu in its list of prohibited substances and there were several judges who used this as an excuse to acquit shabu manufacturers and pushers.

Comprehensive?

Eventually, Congress passed Republic Act No. 9165, now called the Comprehensive Dangerous Drugs Act of 2002. This new law is even stricter than Marcos' version, with penalties for every kind of offense imaginable.

I was listening to one of the police officials after the Pasig drug bust and he was practically gloating about the types of criminal charges they could slap on those arrested. At one point, he even mentioned that "visiting a drug den" was punishable. He was right: according to RA 9165, anyone who "is aware of the place (drug den) as such and shall knowingly visit the same" can be imprisoned from 12 years and one day to 20 years, with a fine of P100,000 to P500,000.

But that new law is comprehensive only when it comes to punitive measures. When it comes to prevention, it offers little. The implementing rules and regulations, for example, require all business establishments that have 10 or more employees to try to build a "drug-free workplace." It includes education on drug abuse, random drug testing, even a provision that the workplace should have a streamer or billboard that reads: "This is a drug-free workplace; let's keep it this way!"

Streamers? They're about as useful as those "Get high on God, not on drugs" billboards on the streets. Drug testing? Shabu's excreted from the body within three days. Education on drug abuse would work, if you have properly trained people and teaching materials, but no one's supporting that, as far as I know.

The law's there to scare people into behaving. The penalties are heavy, I can assure you. Just as an example, the possession of 8 grams of shabu carries penalties of imprisonment of 20 years and one day to as long as life, with fines of P400,000 to P500,000. Moreover, if the person found possessing that amount of shabu was in the "proximate company of two people," presumably in a drug den, the maximum penalty can be death, and the fine goes up to P10 million!

Why did I zero in on "8 grams of shabu"? Because that's the amount of shabu Nora Aunor allegedly had when she was arrested in the United States some time back. Nora Aunor certainly isn't going to get imprisoned anywhere close to 20 years in the States. In fact, the word is that her lawyers are pleading for a light sentence, plus community service.

Protection

Is the United States too lax? Actually, their use of imprisonment for drug users is seen as barbaric by Europeans and doing little to solve the bigger social problem. The American model pours much more money into police operations and throwing drug users into jail, with far too little going into rehabilitation.

When Aunor's case first made the headlines here, I asked a friend, a drug dependent, if he knew what would happen if the actress were to be convicted here, for the possession of 8 grams. He shrugged his shoulders and tersely replied, "Nothing. She has connections."

He was probably right. The law actually helps nurture the drug trade. In our corrupt system, the heavy penalties increase the potential take for police. After the Pasig raids, for example, the police coddling other dens all over the country are bound to increase their protection fees. And whenever these fees increase, we see the involvement of higher officials.

That's not the end of it. As more and more powerful godfathers become involved in this lucrative industry, the operations actually grow in scale, so it's not surprising that the dens have now become *tiangges* and supermarkets.

I'm just talking about protection money here. In urban poor communities, I've heard stories of people having to pay extortion money to the police after being set up with planted drugs. There's probably millions of pesos going into bribes as well for the police, and judges, to get an arrested relative off the hook. Some are real offenders, others are just hapless fall guys and victims.

Alas, the Pasig shabu supermarket only reminds us that the law is very much on the side of the drug syndicates and their *kumpare* politicians, police and judges.

A poison that kills the poor

IN THE MIDST OF ABJECT POVERTY, skyrocketing prices of commodities and services, and the country's record of 4.2 million unemployed and 6.8 million underemployed, the Arroyo administration imposed the latest increase in expanded value added tax (EVAT).

A bitter pill and a short-term pain—this is the EVAT, according to Rep. Joey Salceda, a financial adviser of Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo.

"What do you mean by crushing my people, by grinding the face of the poor?" says the Lord God of Hosts. (Isaiah 3:15) In these extremely difficult times for many Filipinos who are poor, underpaid and unemployed, we remind GMA, Salceda and all insensitive government leaders and tax collectors that the poor, who have been in chronic suffering caused by unjust economic policies, the statement is not only cruel, it is inhuman. They can't simply swallow this deception.

Hunger and disease, lack of access to education, poor housing and health care are the daily tribulations of ordinary Filipinos. Adding another tax burden is double jeopardy.

GMA and her elite advisers in Congress should stay at least one week in the shanties of Tondo or Payatas, where they should be deprived of a living wage, medicines and the vitamin supplements they need, while eating only noodles, sardines or nothing at all. They should be made also to experience a life without electricity; and to fetch their drinking water from community faucets. And then, after that, let them tell the whole world that they are willing to take the bitter pill of EVAT and be robbed of dignity as human beings.

No, this government cannot show mercy for it knows not how to give justice. The poor are victims of its ruthlessness. The government doesn't care if their children go to bed hungry; it would rather boast of economic growth. It doesn't care if fathers and mothers are unable to bring their sick children to hospitals for lack of money to buy medicines; it would rather extract more taxes from them to pay foreign debts from which the poor did not benefit. It doesn't care that prices are getting higher each day, so long as tax money is collected for those in power—never mind that they were elected through fraud—to spend.

EVAT is immoral, inhuman and merciless. It is not only a bitter pill but a poison that kills the poor.

—NORMA P. DOLLAGA,
general secretary,
Kapatirang Simbahan Para Sa Bayan (Kasimbayan),
3/F NCCP, 879 Edsa, QC

Sickening lack of discipline

THE BANNER STORY OF THE Feb. 5 issue of the INQUIRER hinted that the Ultra stampede somehow reflected the "real state of the economy."

I would say it showed how undisciplined Filipinos are. We don't know how to queue up. We don't know how to form a straight line. We can't stay on our lanes, wherever we are, whether at the airport, in the church or in a mall, or on the road.

Every manifestation of this inability is a sickening sight.

—OBS CARIÑO,
gm_umac@yahoo.com

Weak moral values caused tragedy

THE EDITORIAL ON THE PHIL-Sports arena stampede, titled "Selfish society," (PDI, 2/10/06) hit the nail right on the head. It stayed away from finger-pointing—the blame game, that is. Filipinos should realize that the tragedy was just a manifestation of the decline of what my aunt used to call "GMRC" (good manners and right conduct) and morality. It irked me that public officials eagerly pointed to the usual suspect—poverty.

The stampede may have been aggravated by poverty, but its root cause was deeper—weak moral values and character—manifested by an opportunistic tendency to serve one's own, personal interests first and foremost, without regard for others or anything else.

We saw this during a family vacation last August 2005. We came early to attend a cheering contest. About 20 people were ahead of us when we joined the line. Despite our protestations, there were simply those, mostly young high school students, who insisted on inserting themselves into the line ahead and behind us. When the gates finally opened, there were already about 100 people ahead of us.

After having lived in the United States for more than 10 years, I wish Filipinos could see how we keep to the lines here. There is order and respect, especially for the elderly and the disabled. There is no tolerance for those who don't fall in line. Our parents and teachers greatly affect our character.

Teaching students to respect others and do what is right even in simple activities such as forming a line will help make a better society.

"Never lose your dignity, even in poverty." This is true today as much as in the past.

—LOEL FORTUGALEZA,
jinkabo@yahoo.com

A growing restiveness

(From calling a halt to the blame game, to asking everyone to examine his own conscience, to remonstrating with the Catholic Church on birth control, to egging on trigger fingers, readers are getting more restive by the day.)

VOICES ON INQ7.NET

FIVE YEARS OF MISRULE BY THE MOTHER OF plunder and prevarication is just too much for anyone to digest. Will somebody please, please pull the trigger already!—**Adolfo Paglinawan, mymaestro888@yahoo.com**

* * *

The "Gloriagate" crisis served as an eye-opener for us Filipinos. It was evidence that we are not united as a nation. We tend to find fault in one another. And when we have found a fault, we magnify it without even testing its validity. Thus, we waste our time focusing on this single fault instead of concentrating on what is good for our country.

There is really a need to shift our focus to finding out what good each one of us has done for the country. There is also a need for our leaders to do a significantly good job so it will be easy for citizens to spot their positive contributions and acknowledge them for it.—**Hershe Legaspina, Cebu City**

* * *

There is so much going on in our country, that everybody is aware of—corrupt politicians, poverty, sickness, pollution and people dying for no reason. Yet everyone is so focused on how he can blame the leader of the nation. Does everyone know that this did not happen in the last six years only? It's just common sense!

I know everyone is aware of how long it will take to get the country back on its feet. To do this, we must choose an intelligent as well as a respected leader, firm and straightforward, who can (guide) the nation in the right direction. The most important thing is the support of all Filipinos. We must start right now and help one another. We need to stop the criticism (and) add actions to our words rather than [remain] observers.—**Arnold Bermejo, arnoldbermejo@cox.net**

* * *

The crisis stems from people's ignorance, apathy and lack of self-respect. There is a more serious problem that we need to address before we can solve this never-ending procession of stupid leaders who bleed the country.

The majority of Filipinos are poor. They comprise a major block of the voting population. Sadly, they are also the ones who willingly sacrifice six years or even a lifetime of hardship for a bag of rice, a few packs of noodles and cans of sardines. Poor families are rapidly reproducing while resources are being rapidly depleted. Tightening their belts will not help; they don't even have money to buy belts.

While we scramble for a solid plan on population management, here come Church people opposing population management. Ligation and vasectomy are condemned as immoral by the Church. Come on, holy ones! It is immoral [to] let these people reproduce unabatedly, knowing that they can never raise their children decently. The poor kids they bring [into] this world should be spared.

Family planning policy must be based on the income of the family and strictly imposed by government. If the Church opposes this, it should present a viable alternative based on present realities. I dare the Church to take responsibility [for] those families. They're the result of its preaching.

Unless we do our part to educate these people and help alleviate their economic status, history will always repeat itself—its worst self.—**Richard Cruz, rcruz5@gmail.com**

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Sulu village folk recover US unmanned spy aircraft

JOLO, SULU—RESIDENTS OF A VILLAGE IN INdanan recovered an unmanned aerial vehicle (UAV), which a Sulu official said could be a US spy plane.

A US military official admitted that it was a UAV but denied it was a spy plane.

Temojen Tulawie, Jolo town councilor, yesterday said the UAV crashed after hitting a coconut tree in the boundaries of Barangays Buanza and Marang in Patikul town on Feb. 10.

He said a farmer, identified only as Ahmad, has been keeping the UAV since it was retrieved.

Tulawie, also a convenor of the Concerned Citizens of Sulu, told the INQUIRER residents had initially argued if the falling object they saw was a bird "because its wings were moving."

Some contended it must be a toy.

"But when it fell to the ground after hitting coconut leaves, the residents scampered away because they thought it was a bomb," Tulawie said.

When nothing happened after the object fell, residents went to see what it was.

They found out it was a "small plane."

"We were immediately informed so we went to Indanan," Tulawie said.

He said they took photos of the UAV, which is about "27 to 30 inches long, with serial numbers PN 54683, SN 2470, PN 54684 and SN 3120 on the different sides of the wings."

"It is also equipped with camera located on the nose end and the marking Aerovironment Incorporated-RAVEN with barcode number 11012804 and code number of 1315," he said.

Tulawie believes the UAV was one of similar spy planes used by US forces in Sulu.

Indanan officials said they could not say whether the UAV was indeed a spy plane.

"Last year, we heard about a missing spy plane but we do not have information about the latest find," Mudjahirin Abdulmutajar, municipal administrator, said.

Abdulmutajar said if it was indeed a spy plane, US officials owed them an explanation.

"What the hell was that equipment was doing in our place? They (Americans) are supposed to conduct humanitarian activities in four towns and not to spy on people especially in our town. We are not included in the four towns where Balikatan is being held," he said.

Lt. Col. Eddie Paruchabutr, Joint Special Operation Task Force Philippines acting spokesperson, admitted that the US military owns the UAV but denied it was used for spying.

"No, it was not a spy plane. We don't use spy planes. It is an unmanned plane, a piece of equipment that we use to do survey for future civil military projects," he said.

"It surveys and takes photographs and it works also for the protection of US troops, and the AFP and the local population," Paruchabutr said.

He said the UAV had already been turned over to them.

A ranking US official said the presence of the Jemaah Islamiyah (JI) and Abu Sayyaf militants in Mindanao remains a major threat to the country's security.

Mathew Lussenhop, spokesperson of the US Embassy in Manila, said the threat remains as long as the "terrorists" are free.

To prevent possible terror attacks, he said his government is working closely with the Philippine military and other law enforcement agencies through the US antiterrorism assistance training program. *Julie Alipala and Jeoffrey Maitem, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

Villagers await hatching of sea turtle eggs

DAGUPAN CITY—Like new parents expecting the birth of their first child, residents of the picturesque Ilio-iloi village in Burgos town in western Pangasinan are awaiting the hatching of sea turtle eggs laid on their seashore.

The eggs were found by Antonio de Guzman, a Bantay Dagat (sea guard) volunteer, in the morning of Jan. 28 on the shore of Sitio Cabangaoan, 24 km from the town proper.

Ava Sharon Batay-an, of the Tanggol Kalikasan, an environmental non-government organization, said the eggs could have been laid on the night of Jan. 27 or dawn of Jan. 28.

Out of curiosity, De Guzman and other Bantay Dagat volunteers dug the area and found that it was a turtle nest. They touched the eggs but returned them to the nest which was in front of the Bantay Dagat detachment.

"It's interesting that the sea turtle laid its eggs in front of the detachment. It's as if it knew the eggs would be safe there," Batay-an said.

This was the first time that the residents saw turtle eggs in their area, although three sea turtles had been intercepted there by the municipal agriculture office in coordination with the Community Environment and Natural Resources Office in Alaminos City.

Two leatherback sea turtles were caught in Sitio Pao in 2000 while a green turtle was caught in Sitio Cabangaoan in July 2002.

In December 2003, an Olive Ridley species was about to lay eggs in the area but was caught by a fisherman, Batay-an said. *Yolanda Sotelo-Fuertes, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau*

5,500 GIs to join war games

CLARK SPECIAL ECOnomic Zone—Some 5,500 American soldiers and 2,800 Filipino troopers are set to start on Feb. 20 the large-scale Balikatan exercises in Sulu, Cebu and Luzon.

The final preparations for this year's Balikatan are taking place this week, according to Capt. Burrell Parmer, the public affairs officer of the United States contingent.

Parmer said the training's first phase, composed of 11 engineering and medical civic action projects, will be held in Jolo, Sulu, by 400 participants.

About $245,000 has been set aside for these activities, including the construction of school buildings in Jolo.

The second and third phases, which entail the holding of combined task force staff exercise, cross training and field training exercises, will be held in Cebu and Luzon.

Parmer said Balikatan is one of the 37 joint war games planned this year. It is the 22nd Balikatan since the 1980s. *Tonette Orejas, PDI Central Luzon Desk*

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INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The Davao City Water District (DCWD), through its Bids and Awards Committee-B (BAC-B), invites contractors registered with and classified by the Philippine Contractors Accreditation Board (PCAB) to apply for eligibility and if found eligible, to bid for the hereunder contract:

Package 1:

Name of Contract	: Exploratory Well Drilling of Riverside Production Well No. 2
Location	: Los Amigos, Tugbok District, Davao City
Brief Description	: 250mmØ borehole for 500m depth exploratory well drilling, 200m depth well utilization with gravel pack and 18m depth cement grout with 1m clay seal for sanitary seals, 650mmØ upper borehole with 450mmØ x 661m. Blank casing, 450mmØ lower borehole with 250mmØ stainless screen/blank casing combination. Rotary Drilling Method.
Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC)	: Php 4,859,954.82
Contract Duration	: 149 Calendar Days

Package 2:

Name of Contract	: Exploratory Well Drilling of Panacan Production Well No. 3
Location	: Upper Malagamot, Brgy. Panacan, Davao City
Brief Description	: 250mmØ borehole for 300m depth exploratory well drilling, 180m depth well utilization with gravel pack and 18m depth cement grout with 1m clay seal for sanitary seals, 600mmØ upper borehole with 400mmØ x 92lm. Blank casing, 450mmØ lower borehole with 250mmØ stainless screen / blank casing combination. Rotary Drilling Method.
Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC)	Php 3,897,570.92
Contract Duration	131 Calendar Days

Prospective bidders should possess a valid PCAB License applicable to the contract, have completed a similar contract with a value of at least 50% of the ABC, and have key personnel and equipment (listed in the Eligibility Forms) available for the prosecution of the contract. The BAC will use non-discretionary pass/fail criteria in the Eligibility Check/Screening as well as the Preliminary Examination of Bids. The BAC-B will conduct post-qualification of the lowest calculated bid.

All particulars relative to Eligibility Statement and Screening, Bid Security, Performance Security, Pre-Bidding Conference, Evaluation of Bids, Post-Qualification and Award of Contract shall be governed by the pertinent provisions of R.A. 9184 and its Implementing Rules and Regulation-A (IRR-A).

The schedule of BAC-B activities is as follows:

BAC ACTIVITIES	SCHEDULE
1. Receipt from prospective bidders of Letters of Intent (LOI) including Application for Eligibility	February 17-March 3, 2006
2. Issuance of Eligibility Forms	February 17-March 3, 2006
3. Receipt of Eligibility Requirements	February 18-March 10, 2006
4. Notice of Results of Eligibility Check	March 13-March 24, 2006
5. Issuance of Bid Documents	March 15-31, 2006
6. Pre-bid Conference	April 7, 2006, 2:00 P.M.
7. Receipt and Opening of Bids	April 19, 2006, 2:30 P.M.

The BAC-B will issue to prospective bidders Eligibility Forms thru the BAC-B Secretariat c/o at the DCWD Office of the General Manager, Bajada, Davao City, upon their submission of a LOI, and upon their payment of a non-refundable amount of Php 1,500.00 per package to the DCWD Cashier. Prospective bidders shall submit the Eligibility Requirements to the BACB at the said address. They may also obtain the results of the Eligibility Check by the BAC-B at the same address.

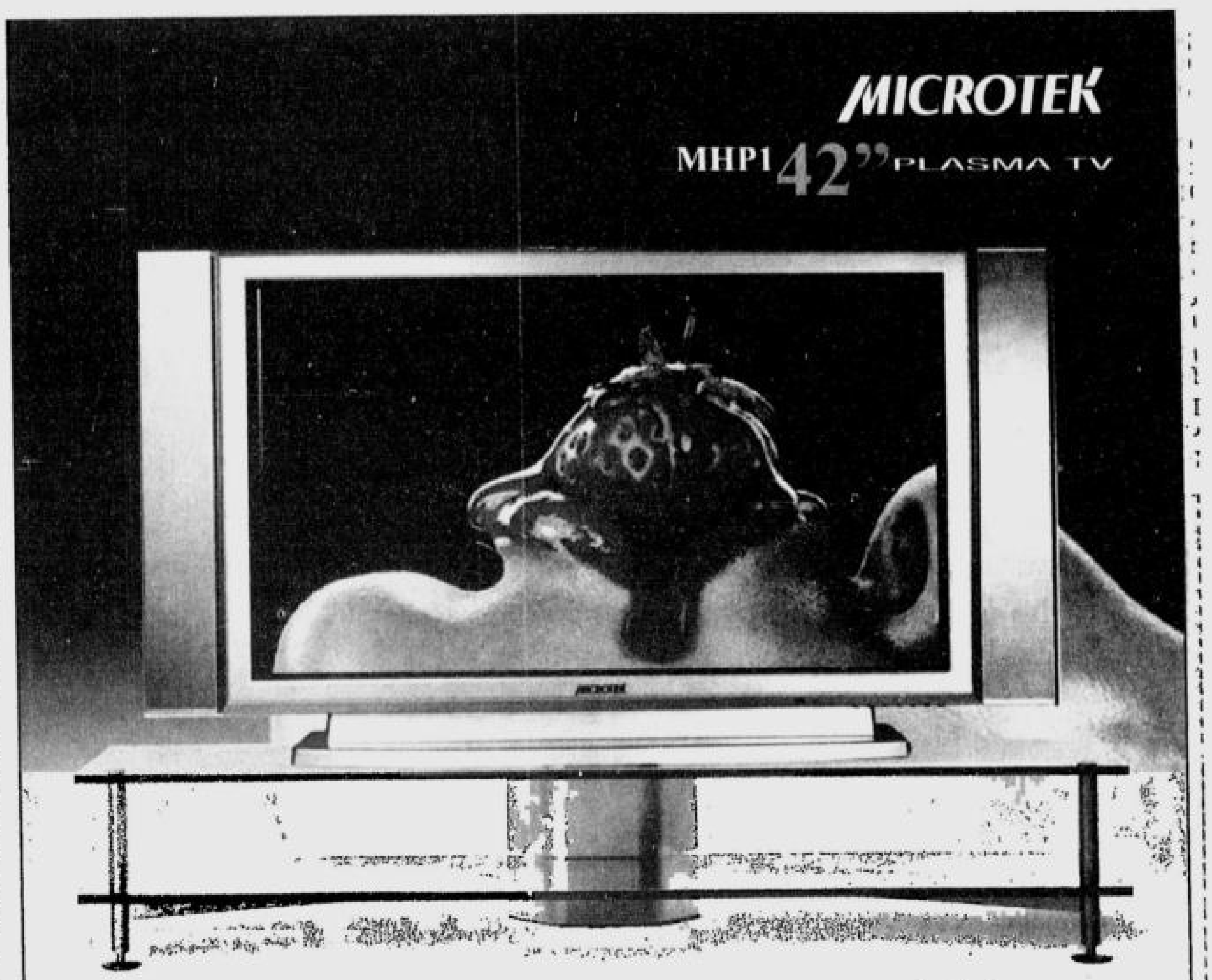
The BAC will issue Bidding Documents only to bidders declared by the BAC-B to be eligible for the bidding upon payment of a non-refundable amount of Php 2,500.00 per package to the DCWD Cashier.

The Davao City Water District assumes no responsibility whatsoever to compensate or indemnify bidders for any expenses incurred in the preparation of their bids

Approved by:

(Sgd.) WILLIAM V. GUILLEN
Chairperson, Bids & Awards Committee-B

(PDI – February 17 & 24, 2006)



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February 16 - 22, 2006
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60,000
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- Flood any room with 1500 nit brightness
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- Slim, sleek, elegant design
- Power Stereo Speaker System
- 60,000 Hours Life

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Stanford University Medical Center

7th MMC-STANFORD
COLLABORATIVE MEDICAL FORUM
* February 20 & 21, 2006 * Makati Medical Center *

SHARON A. HUNT, MD
Professor
Specialties: Cardiology
Heart & Lung Transplantation
Stanford University Medical Center
Chair, ACC/ AHA Guideline Update for Diagnosis & Management of Heart Failure
(Published December 2005)

ALAN C. YEUNG, MD
Professor
Specialties: Cardiology
Interventional Cardiology
Division Chief, Cardiology
Stanford University Medical Center

SANDHYA SRINIVAS, MD
Assistant Professor
Specialty: Oncology
Stanford University Medical Center

HARCHARAN S. GILL, MD
Associate Professor
Specialty: Urology
Chief of Urologic Oncology
Stanford University Medical Center

CARDIOLOGY FORUM LECTURES:
February 20, 2006 (9:00 am - 3:30 pm)
* Heart Failure Therapy - the newer drugs & devices
* Heart Transplantation: current results & state-of-the-art
* Left Main Coronary Artery Disease: Do we still need bypass?
* Drug Eluting Stents: are they all the same?
February 21, 2006 (9:00 am - 12:00 nn)
* Controversies & Contentious Issues in Heart Failure Therapy
* Viability studies: dobutamine echo, PET scan or MRI?
* Will 64 Detector CT-Angiogram replace coronary angiography?

UROLOGY FORUM LECTURES:
February 20, 2006 (9:00 am - 4:30 pm)
* Radical Prostatectomy - What is the best surgical approach?
* Second Line Hormones
* PSA Kinetics to Predict Cancer Progression
* Palliative Care Approaches
February 21, 2006 (9:00 am - 12:00 nn)
* Chemotherapy in Advanced Disease
* Optimal Strategies for Prostate Biopsy

* * *

MARIANO M. ALIMURUNG
MEMORIAL LECTURE
February 20, 2006, 6:30 - 8:00 pm
"Evidence-Based Treatment for Heart Failure in 2006"
Speaker: Sharon A. Hunt, MD

* * *

LAY FORUM
February 20, 2006
3:30 - 4:30 pm Congestive Heart Failure & Coronary Artery Disease
5:00 - 6:00 pm Prostate Cancer

* * *

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NO REGISTRATION / SEMINAR FEE

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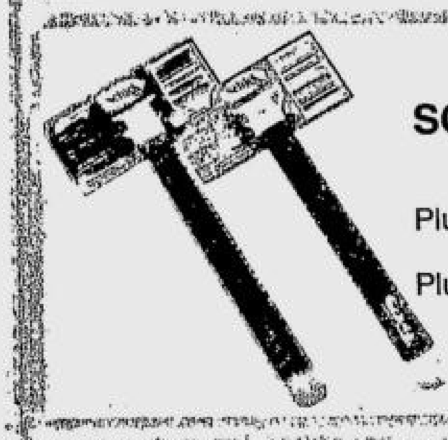
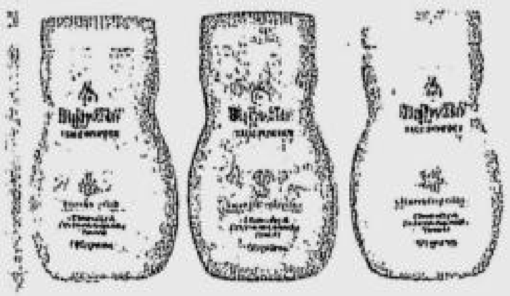
February 17- March 2, 2006



SCHICK EXTRA II

Plus Green P21.50 each

Plus Pink P29.25 each



BABYFLO
Powder

Blushy Pink (50g)
Sweety Purple (50g)
Charming Blue (50g)

P14.75 each

DARI CREME
Buttermilk
225g
P25.50 each *

EL FAVORITO
Sweet Corn
Half Gallon
P170 each *

Vista Pure
Cornstarch (200g)
P10.50 each

Vista Pure
Cornstarch (400g)
P18.50 each

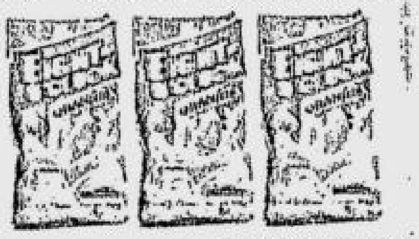
HOT BUY

SUPERSAVERS
Fresh Eggs Large
12's
P49.50 dozen **

NISSUI
Crabstick
1 LB
P101 each **

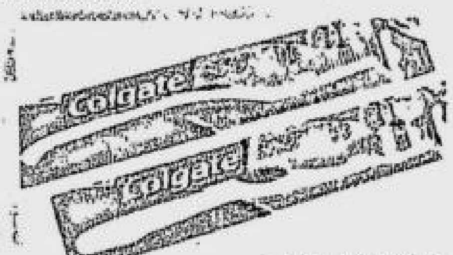
** *Prices not applicable in Naga.*

SAN MIG 3 IN 1 COFFEE
Strong
14g (6's)
P21.50 each

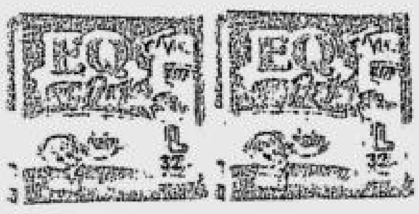


EIGHT O'CLOCK
Orange
500g
P36.50 each

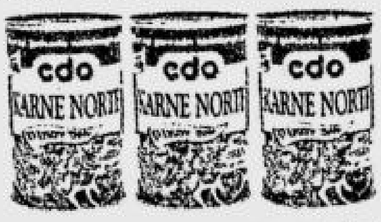
GAIN PLUS
with Eye Q
400g
P235.50 each



COLGATE
Toothbrush 360°
P108.25 each



EQ DRY DIAPERS
Eco Large
32's
P245 each



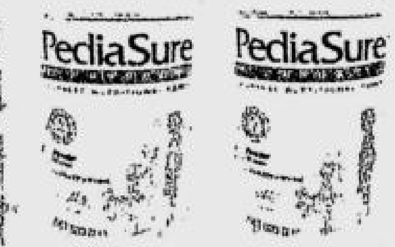
CDO
Karne Norte
150g
P17.75 each

SUMO
Waferstick Choco
18g
P26.75 each

WILKINS
Distilled Water
6L
P60.25 each

SAFEGUARD
Deo-Cologne
90g
P17 each

EQ DRY DIAPERS
Eco Medium
36's
P245 each



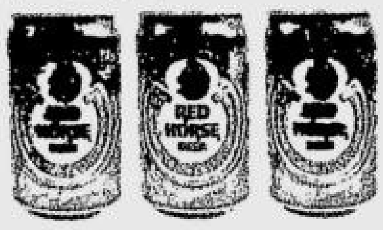
PEDIASURE
Vanilla
900g
P721.90 each

SAN MIG 3 IN 1 COFFEE
Original
14g (6's)
P16.75 each

CDO
Vienna Sausage
70g
P13.50 each

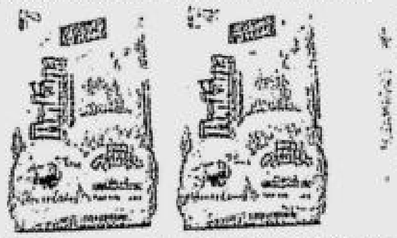
COLGATE DENTAL CARE
Total 12 Clean Mint
160g
P68.25 each

SURF
with Fabric Conditioner
1kg
P93.75 each

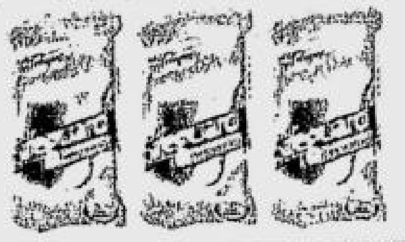


RED HORSE BEER
330ml
P20.50 each

VOICE
Rich Choco
25g
P26.75 each



PONKANA
Orange
250g
P18.50 each



SAFEGUARD
Deo-Cologne
60g
P10.25 each

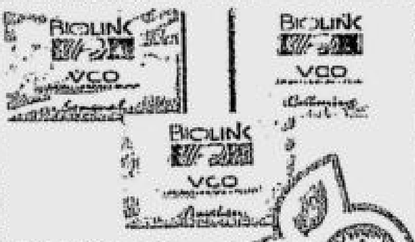
SURF BAR
with Fabric Conditioner
440g
P17.50 each

Per DTI-NCR Permit # 0272, Series of 2006.

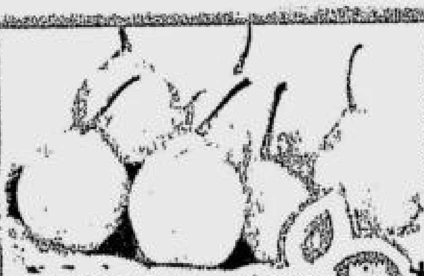
* *Prices not applicable in Visayas and Mindanao.*

NESVITA
Pro Digestion
Non Fat (180g)
P80.

COKE LIGHT
1.5L
Reg. Price: P32.50
P31.

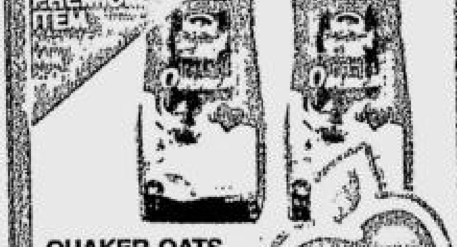


BIOLINK SOAP
w/ Virgin
Coconut Oil (90g)
Reg. Price: 25.25
P24

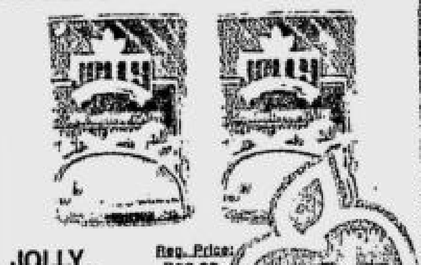


CHINA YA PEAR
Reg. Price: P7.35
P7 *

SALMON HEAD
(not available in Naga)
Reg. Price: P93.45
P89 *

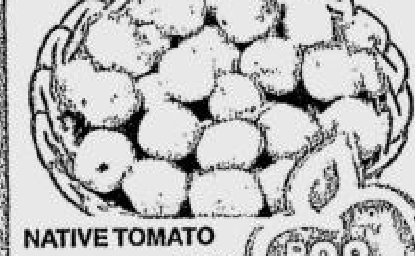


QUAKER OATS
Instant Oatmeal
400g
P57.

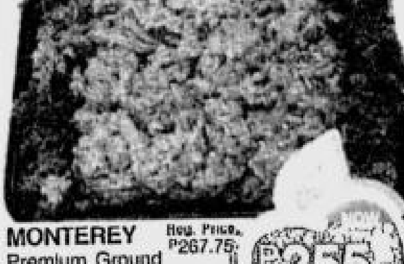


JOLLY
Cream of
Mushroom (298g)
Reg. Price: P32.25
P30.

UNILAB
Home Remedy
Promo Pack
Reg. Price: P170
P159 **



NATIVE TOMATO
Reg. Price: P29.40
P28 *



MONTEREY
Premium Ground
Round (95% lean meal)
Reg. Price: P267.75
P255 *

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Girl's death strikes fear in town

SASMUAN, PAMPANGA—FEARS of a supposed serial rapist on the loose have stalked residents of the remote coastal village of Batang Dos here following the death of a 2-year-old girl in nearby Barangay Malusac.

The apprehension heightened after police exhumed the body of the girl and found indications of head injury and sexual assault.

The finding contradicted an earlier report by the town's rural health officer that she drowned.

"We have started to be afraid for our own children. Drowning was also the reported cause of death of a number of kids in Malusac. Could some of them have also been raped? Perhaps there's a serial rapist there," Vicky Mangalindan, the aunt of the recent victim, said.

Old-timers in Malusac told the INQUIRER on Tuesday that the girl was the sixth child they knew to have drowned there since the 1980s. The three others in the batch were girls aged 8 to 12 years old, it was learned.

The girl went missing at 3:30 p.m. on Feb. 1 in Malusac where her mother sold oysters. At about 7 a.m. the next day, her naked body was found floating in a private fishpond at the Sapang Tali Creek.

In a report to the former chief of police on Feb. 3, Dr. Merlyn Limpin certified that the girl's "clothes were intact," her hymen was "intact," and that she died "due to drowning."

Following the exhumation facilitated by Senior Supt. Leonardo Espina, Pampanga police director, Dr. Jude Lim Doble of the Camp Olivas crime laboratory said in an initial medico-legal report that the cause of the girl's death was "intracranial hemorrhage and shock as result of blunt traumatic injury of the head."

Doble further said that "genital findings are compatible with sexual assaults."

Abrasions were found in the girl's private part, left leg and right foot.

Asked why she missed out the details mentioned in Doble's report, Limpin told the INQUIRER that what she carried out was a mere post-mortem examination, which she said was limited to external body parts.

According to her, the girl's father did not consent to an autopsy, which required opening up the body.

The father said he requested the investigators to do an autopsy when Limpin, in a confrontation before Mayor Catalina Bagasina on Feb. 6, gave conflicting information on whether his daughter was abused or not.

Limpin denied a whitewash, saying she "forgot" to write the other details.

The parents and investigators have yet to identify a suspect 13 days after the incident.

A 7-year-old boy, who lives near the fishpond, told police that he saw the girl floating in the creek between 4 and 5 p.m. on Feb. 1. *Tonette Orejas, PDI Central Luzon Desk*

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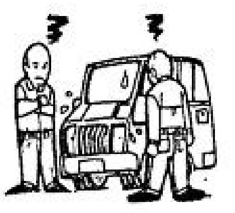
ROUNDUP

Board buys 14 vans



CITY OF SAN FERNANDO—The provincial board bought 14 new service vehicles, triggering grumbling from some capitol employees. The Mitsubishi Adventure vans cost P835,000 each or a total of P11.7 million, data from the provincial accountant's office showed. These were paid in cash to a local car dealer after bidding. The recipients were 13 board members and Vice Gov. Joseller Guiao. They returned their old service vehicles, bought about five years ago, which were turned over to other departments. Provincial accountant Benjamin Yuson said the purchase was above board since it was programmed in the 2005 budget. Some capitol officials frowned at the car-buying binge, saying the budgets for hazard pay and low-cost housing for them should have been given priority.
Tonette Orejas, PDI Central Luzon Desk

Truck falls; 2 dead

COTABATO CITY—Two persons were killed while 11 others were injured when a truck fell into a ravine in Alamada, North Cotabato, Mayor Ernesto Concepcion said Wednesday. Concepcion said one of those killed was a woman while many of those injured were students returning home on Feb. 14. Bernardo de Lima, a truck helper, said the vehicle was filled with passengers, some of them seated on the roof, and sacks of corn. He said the truck was negotiating a sharp curve when its brakes failed. *Edwin Fernandez, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

Girl stabbed by molester

COTABATO CITY—A 14-year-old girl is fighting for her life after an unidentified molester stabbed her repeatedly on Tuesday night. The girl told reporters at the Cotabato Regional and Medical Center on Wednesday that she was asleep when the attacker entered her room. "I pushed, punched and kicked him as I was yelling for help. I supposed I struck his balls when he ceased to stab me and fled," Lorna, of Barangay Kalanganan here, said. The commotion roused neighbors who came to rescue the girl but the attacker had fled by then. *Charlie Señase, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

Town promotes boxing

SIBULAN, Negros Oriental—The municipality of Sibulan is now developing a boxing program, inspired by the growing popularity of a favorite son, Jimrex Jaca, whose real name is Jimwel Divino. Mayor Antonio Renacia said Jaca's sensational victory over his Mexican opponent and the fame it brought to him had inspired youths of the town to go into boxing. Jaca, of Boloc-boloc, was a product of the Amateur Boxing Association of Negros Oriental. *Romy Amarado, PDI Visayas Bureau*

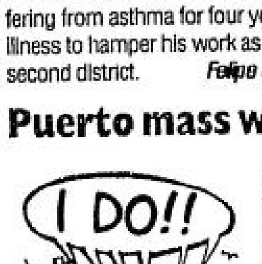
Port upgraded

GENERAL SANTOS CITY—The Bureau of Immigration has upgraded the status of the port in Glan, Sarangani from domestic to limited port of entry. Lawyer Ernesto Mercado, BI chief here, said foreign vessels could now dock at the port. BI Commissioner Alipio Fernandez Jr. said the decision to upgrade the port's status was in response to the request of the Jose Abad Santos-Glan-Sarangani Cooperation Triangle to allow direct shipping links between Glan and the northern provinces of Tahuna and Bitung in Indonesia.
Aquiles Zonio, PDI Mindanao Bureau

Capiz board member dies

ROXAS CITY—Provincial board member Gaudencio 'Anden' Reyes died of severe asthma Feb. 14. He was 50. Reyes died at about 5 a.m. at the St. Anthony College Hospital where he had been confined. His death came three days before he was scheduled to deliver a privilege speech to bid farewell to his colleagues and staff following his decision to resign for health reasons. Board member Abel Martinez said Reyes had been suffering from asthma for four years but did not allow his illness to hamper his work as board member from the second district. *Felipe Celino, PDI Visayas Bureau*

Puerto mass wedding



PUERTO PRINCESA—A day before Valentine's Day, 51 couples exchanged vows in a mass wedding officiated by Fr. Eugene Elivera and Mayor Edward Hagedorn. Ten other married couples renewed their vows.

Geraldford Ticke, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

"We have observed the failure of political processes to make public servants accountable for wrongdoings. What we have seen instead are acts of evasion and obstruction of the truth, as in the case of the wiretapping and Garcillano tapes controversy… We recommend that the search for truth be relentlessly pursued through structures and processes mandated by law and our Constitution, such as the Ombudsman, the Commission on Audit, the Commission on Human Rights, the Sandiganbayan, and Congress itself as well as other citizens' groups. This requires that such bodies be led and run by credible people; persons of integrity and probity."

"While we agree that certain aspects of our Constitution may need amendments and revisions, we do not support hasty efforts to change this fundamental law of the land without the widespread discussion and participation that such changes require. We continue to believe, as we did in our Statement on Charter Change in 2003, that changing the Constitution involving major shifts in the form of government, requires widespread participation, total transparency, and relative serenity that allows for rational discussion and debate. This is best done through a Constitutional Convention,"

Catholic Bishops Conference of the Philippines Pastoral Statement (29 January 2006)

The "*Proposed Amendments to the 1987 Constitution by the House Committee on Constitutional Amendments*", referred to as the "*House Proposal*" in this paper, is no better than that proposed by the Consultative Commission (CONCOM) even if it contains less controversial provisions than the latter. The proposed Constitution used as the working draft by the Constitutional Amendments Committee, still contains provisions that are disastrous to the political, economic and other human rights of the Filipino people. In fact, the House Proposal has far worse provisions in relation to checking the martial law powers of the president/prime minister as it completely reverted to the provisions of the Marcos Constitution during martial law.

The House Proposal constitutes a direct threat to the interest of the Filipino people in the following major aspects: Provisions that assure Pres. Gloria Arroyo's stay in Office and the Grant of Dual Powers: Sweeps Aside Questions on her Mandate; Provisions that Merely Dispense Economic and Political Favors to Public Officials in Order to Get Support for Revising the Constitution.; Provisions that Threaten and Curtail Human Rights; Provisions that Provide for Greater Economic Power to Foreign Investors and Transnational Corporations and Result in Greater Damage to the Economic Interest of the Filipino People; Provisions that Support the Political and Military Interest of Foreign Governments such as the United States to the Detriment of Philippine National Interest; Provisions on a Unicameral Parliamentary System that Further Institutionalize Government Unaccountability and Curtail People's Participation in Governance; Deletion of Provisions in the 1987 Constitution that May be Used to Protect the Political and Economic Interest of the Filipino People; Vague and Badly Drafted Provisions that may Lead to a Constitutional Crisis

U CAN'T CON ASS!

We have had enough. We condemn in the strongest possible terms the Arroyo administration's pursuit of a quickie Constituent Assembly (Con Ass) and the cancellation of the 2007 elections (No-El) to ram down people's throat self-serving revisions of the 1987 Constitution.

There is a time for support but also a time to say enough. There is a time for discernment but also a time for creative action.

There is a time to sit and watch.

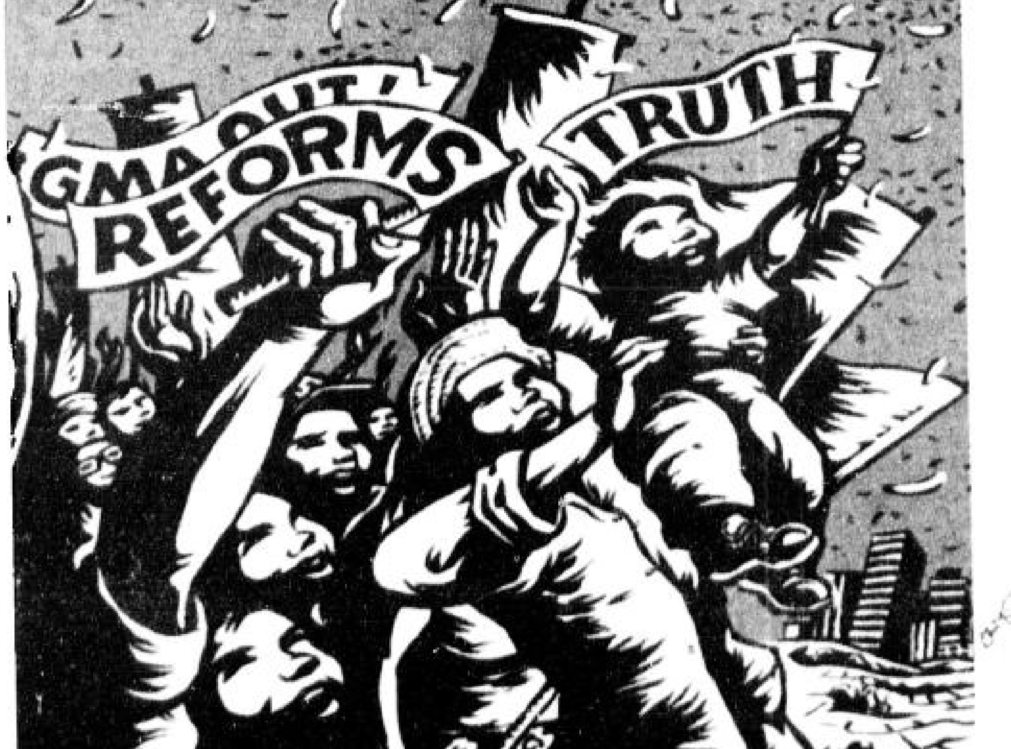
Now is the time to **come together and march.**

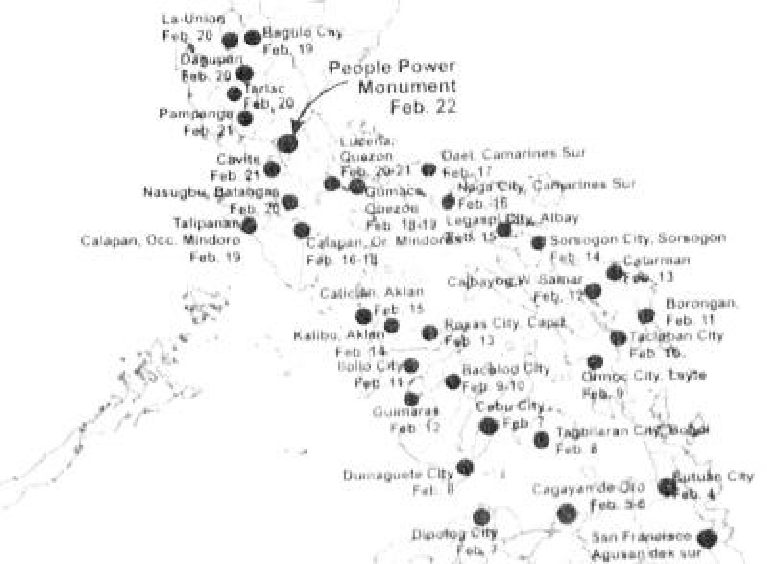
Since February 1, thousands of Filipinos in Mindanao and the Visayas, members of different mass organizations, non-government organizations, political parties, church groups, the academe and professionals in particular, groups aligned with the Alyansa Tigil Mina, Black and White Movement, the Citizens for ConCon, and Laban ng Masa, have joined the Citizens' Pilgrimage for Truth and Reforms in festive celebrations of truth, courage and reforms.

Join the Citizens' Pilgrimage as it passes through your areas.

In the afternoon of February 22, the 20th anniversary of the start of People Power 1, let us all come together and gather at the People Power Monument in Quezon City and relive the spirit of People Power - wealth sharing, courage in truth, unity in diversity, people-centered reforms.

Collectively, we will shout:
NO TO CON ASS! NO TO NO-EL! REVAMP COMELEC !
Remember People Power 1 and 2,
Relentlessly Pursue Truth and Accountability,
Reform the System!





CITIZENS' PILGRIMAGE FOR TRUTH AND REFORMS FEB. 1-22,2006
For more information, please contact pilgrimage coordinators:
Raul Socrates Banzuela Jesus Vicente Garganera Leah Navarro Joel Rocamora
Tel. No. (02) 4265938
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PAID ADVERTISEMENT

'Oplan Heckle' uncovered, say two generals

From page A1

The guest speaker at Saturday's reunion will be Civil Service Commissioner Karina David, wife of UP professor Randy David, an Inquirer columnist and critic of Ms Arroyo.

Armed Forces spokesperson Col. Tristan Kison had said earlier that groups seeking to topple Ms Arroyo were recruiting potential followers in the military but the move was supposedly blunted because of its early discovery.

Kison confirmed the discovery of "Oplan Heckle" and described it as a plan to embarrass proArroyo senior military officials by unfurling antigovernment posters and streamers during the reunion. He said PMA officials had beefed up security around the institution and would set up stricter security searches.

Rumors of plots against Ms Arroyo, who survived an impeachment attempt last year over allegations of vote-rigging and graft, have increased since the Jan. 17 escape of four Magdalo officers who had been jailed for their role in the 2003 Oakwood mutiny. The approaching 20th anniversary of the 1986 People Power uprising that ended the rule of Ferdinand Marcos has also raised additional security concerns.

The chair of the House committee on national defense warned yesterday that the run-up to the Feb. 25 People Power anniversary was a critical period because Magdalo sympathizers could use it "for anti-administration and rebellion activities."

"This is a serious problem that should be dealt with, because the military has been politicized," said Sorsogon Rep. Jose Solis, a retired colonel. "Everybody was saying that things were normal a few days before the Edsa revolution in 1986. What's the difference between 1986 and now?"

According to the Reuters report, the four-phase plot included seizing military camps and removing Ms Arroyo as president.

"We are not ready yet to declassify the coup plot," said one of the generals, who declined to be identified. "I could not say whether we have already preempted them because you can't guess what's on the minds of desperate people."

Ms Arroyo, whose government has been accused of amplifying threats to ward off plotters and seek sympathy, yesterday called generals to a command conference in Malacañang, one day after six armored vehicles were seen entering the Palace grounds. Palace officials said they were simply returning from an exercise.

The two generals told Reuters the plot could have been set in motion in January with the planned escape of mutiny leaders, but only four succeeded in fleeing.

They said two politicians, one with a military background, and several retired officers were identified as the masterminds.

Military intelligence officials said they have monitored active attempts to recruit soldiers to take part. Two retired soldiers have been visiting Army camps across the country, they said.

"They were talking to young officers, even to the graduating class of the military academy," said an intelligence officer. "Some of the recruitment was done through text messages on mobile phones."

On Thursday, one of the four escaped mutiny leaders called on Filipinos to wear red bands on their left arms to protest against "the fake government of Macapagal-Arroyo."

Fourteen of his detained comrades, who have been more deferential to Ms Arroyo, issued a statement warning that communist rebels were trying to exploit the situation as part of a nearly four-decade insurgency.

"We ask our fellow soldiers to be vigilant against individuals or groups who advertise themselves as saviors of our nation," the statement said. ***Reuters with reports from Gil C. Cabacungan Jr., Dona Z. Pazzibugan and Margaux C. Ortiz***

PNP urged to throw book at Pasig mayor

By Philip C. Tubeza, Edson C. Tandoc Jr. and Luige A. del Puerto

THROW THE BOOK AT HIM.

Sen. Panfilo Lacson yesterday urged the Philippine National Police to file criminal charges against Mayor Vicente Eusebio for ordering Wednesday's demolition of the "shabu supermarket" near his office in Pasig City.

A former PNP chief, Lacson said Eusebio should be charged not just with obstruction of justice but also with violation of the Dangerous Drugs Act. The antidrugs law penalizes the cover-up and destruction of evidence in drug cases.

"Very clearly, very obviously, (Eusebio) violated certain provisions of the Dangerous Drugs Act ... Not only obstruction of justice. It's very clear that with the demolition, evidence was destroyed," Lacson said.

"The investigation of the antidrugs unit that conducted the raid is not yet finished, why would you destroy the place? The place itself is the actual evidence of the crime," he said.

Lacson said Eusebio should have cleared the demolition with police investigators since the compound, located less than a kilometer from City Hall, still contained evidence like tooters and other drug paraphernalia.

On Wednesday, workers using a payloader, crowbars, hammers and saws leveled at least 53 shanties that had been converted into "shabu restaurants" in Mapayapa compound in Barangay Sto. Tomas.

The demolition, on Eusebio's orders, came five days after a PNP special task force swooped down on the area and arrested more than 300 persons, including pregnant women and children. The compound had been declared off limits, but city officials claimed no police officers were posted there to guard it.

The compound still looked like a garbage dump yesterday. Scavengers combed the ruins for pillows, plastic and pieces of wood. A backhoe scooped debris and loaded it onto garbage trucks.

Senate probe

Sen. Manuel Villar, chair of the Senate committee on public order and illegal drugs, said Eusebio might be liable if it were proven that the demolition also destroyed vital evidence.

"I think Eusebio was just showing that he is adamant and he does not tolerate the operation of shabu (dens) in his city," he said.

Villar also said his committee would investigate next week not just the "shabu supermarket" in Pasig but also the status of the government drive against the drug menace.

"This will be the start of our investigation into the whole problem of illegal drugs in the entire country. We believe that what we saw in Pasig is just a small aspect of this large problem of illegal drugs in the Philippines," he said.

"There might be more shabu supermarkets that may even surpass Shoemart," Villar said, referring to one of the country's largest malls.

Palace cautious

Malacañang's reaction to the Pasig affair was also cautious.

"I think the mayor meant well and wanted to do a symbolic gesture in bringing down a physical structure. But in so doing, he may have destroyed evidence that may be crucial in the ongoing investigation of the police," said Michael Defensor, presidential chief of staff.

Justice Secretary Raul Gonzalez said the National Bureau of Investigation was conducting its own inquiry.

"The mere fact that there was a demolition could mean that either there is a cover-up or that they have already gathered enough evidence to strengthen their case," Gonzalez said. If it is established that Eusebio suppressed evidence he would be liable as an accessory.

Eusebio maintained the demolition of the shabu restaurants was legal and he would cooperate with any investigation.

"We are ready to face them in court," legal officer Carlos Abesamis told the INQUIRER.

City defends move

"The neighbors had been asking the mayor to destroy the structures to erase the stigma already attached to the community," Abesamis said.

He said the demolition was legal, citing the Civil Code, which states that the government has the authority to demolish structures which pose an imminent danger to the community.

He also denied the operation had caused the destruction of evidence.

"We took some precautions in case the court would want to visualize the real situation on the ground. Before the demolition, we took video footages and pictures," Abesamis said.

The city council has demanded an explanation, by this afternoon, from Barangay Sto. Tomas chair Jesus Viray or he would face suspension. Viray denied involvement in the shabu operations and said "the truth will set me free."

Charges of gross negligence and dereliction of duty have been filed against Viray.

The council is also waiting for the owner of the compound to surface. Two land titles covering parts of the compound were traced to a certain Amin Imam Boratong.

The antinarcotics task force in Camp Crame has begun its investigation into the possible culpability of district police officers.

Director Marcelo Ele said his office would determine if Chief Supt. Oscar Valenzuela was also liable. The National Capital Region Police Office is conducting a parallel inquiry.

Valenzuela is head of the Eastern Police District, which includes the cities of Marikina, Mandaluyong and Pasig, and the town of San Juan.

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4 Pinoys invent personal weather bureau

From page A1

THE TEAM that made it happen is now up for a best research and development project award from the Department of Science and Technology – geologist Dr. Carlo Primo David and three computer engineering students from Don Bosco, Ardin Lopez, Von Padlan and Allan Malunes.

Housed in a silver waterproof box the size of a suitcase, the AMS can also monitor water and air temperature, river flow rates and water turbidity. The recorded data are sent straight from the field to a cell phone as a text message.

"We don't have immediate access to weather data except for Pagasa's (Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration) weather bulletins," David said in interview with the INQUIRER yesterday.

For David, the AMS potential to change the way we live our lives is the real significance of the team's invention.

"I want to know if it's raining in Makati. If it's cold at Lafayette [on Rapu-Rapu Island in Albay]," he says. "Should I bring my jacket?"

"In Mindoro, for example, nobody knew that the rains were already so heavy in the mountains because the only weather station of Pagasa is in Calapan," he said.

The weather bureau has only 58 meteorological stations and 27 agro-meteorological stations for the country's 7,107 islands, forcing meteorologists to rely on data from one station to cover large areas.

No operator required

Unlike the stations used by Pagasa, the AMS does not require an operator to be present to collect data. A rechargeable motorcycle battery powers the AMS, allowing the station to be left unattended in the field for three to five months.

It can also be programmed to send out data to the mobile phone at regular intervals instead of sending out a message only after receiving a missed call.

The AMS was originally designed to monitor river conditions remotely, a task that has become too tedious for a water quality expert like David, who is often tapped by government agencies and nongovernment organizations to conduct investigations of mine accidents and pollution cases.

Lafayette mine spill

David was part of the independent team formed by the Department of Environment and Natural Resources to investigate the mine tailing spills on Rapu-Rapu Island, site of the P1.4-billion gold project of Lafayette Mining Inc., an Australian firm.

"I travel a lot, and I'm tired of going back to places to monitor the same things. It's such a hassle and it costs too much, so the idea came: Why not just leave an instrument there that can record the data I need without me having to go to the field?" he said.

David's practical challenge was taken seriously by three Don Bosco students who made the concept of AMS their thesis last year.

Computer engineering students Ardin Lopez, 24; Von Padlan, 24, and Allan Malunes, 25, designed and created a river monitoring system that would replace field data collection visits with a simple automated system.

First AMS

The first AMS has a propeller that monitors the velocity of water. Increases in water velocity serve as a precursor to flooding, allowing scientists to monitor flow rates and warn government officials before a flood hits.

The volume of river silt, indicating water turbidity, and the presence of dissolved solids, indicating conductivity, are also measured. Anomalies in turbidity and conductivity may indicate environmental change or water pollution.

The students, supervised by David and Dr. Cesar Llorente, completed the first AMS in July last year, after a year of conceptualization and testing.

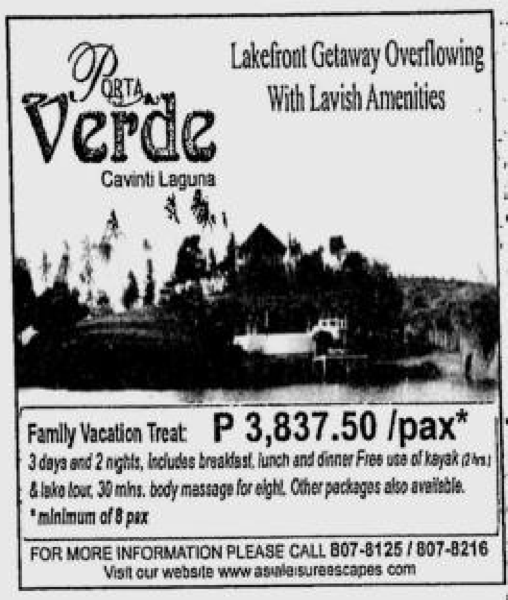
The group received a grant of P100,000 from the Department of Science and Technology and P20,000 from the Marikina government, which is keen on installing the device to monitor the Marikina River.

Only P20,000

The AMS unit, which performs the functions of several devices that would cost more than P200,000, can be built for only P20,000. All the materials used for the project were fabricated at UP NIGS.

"Imagine the data you collect only costs P1 because of the text," David said.

The AMS for river monitoring is a candidate for the best research and development project to be awarded by the DOST and Philippine Council for Industry and Energy Research and Development. *With a report from David A. Hayes*



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NBI raid nets biggest ketamine drug haul

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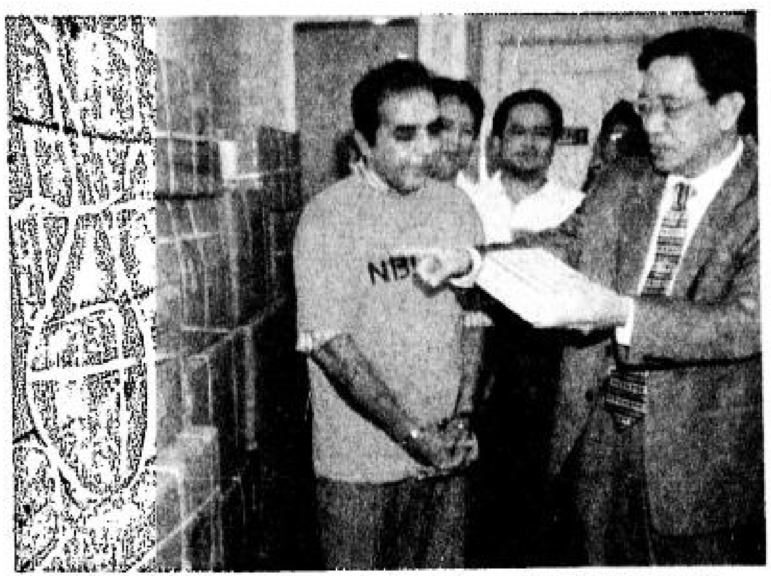
By Margaux C. Ortiz

AGENTS OF THE NATIONAL BUREAU OF INvestigation (NBI) seized during a raid on Wednesday P53 million worth of ketamine hydrochloride, described as "the biggest haul" ever, of the drug which is reportedly fast becoming popular among young adults.

The 53,304 vials of liquid ketamine were discovered in the house of Harris Abichandi, an Indian businessman, on Hamburg St., Merville Subdivision, Parañaque City. Abichandi, 47, was arrested by NBI agents.

"Past raids involving ketamine have not yielded this much," NBI officer in charge Nestor Mantaring said in a press conference yesterday. "This may well be the bureau's biggest ketamine haul so far."

Abichandi, however, denied the allegations against him, saying he was only an "ordinary" trader. "Somebody just delivered the shipment to me," the suspect said, adding that he was cooperating with authorities on the investigation.


NBI acting chief Nestor Mantaring (right) questions Indian trader Harris Abichandi after P53 million worth of ketamine drugs were found in his home.
REM ZAMORA

Regional Director Reynaldo Esmeralda, NBI Special Task Force (STF) chief, said they conducted the raid after receiving a tip from an informant that a big drug shipment arrived from India and passed through the Bureau of Customs (BOC) last Monday. After confirming that the cargo was delivered to the suspect, NBI STF agents immediately applied for a search warrant.

NBI National Capital Region director Ruel Lasala explained that Indian traders usually import liquid ketamine from their country and then sell the drug to Taiwanese and Chinese drug traffickers for processing into powder form. The finished products are then shipped to Taiwan, Singapore and Hong Kong, where they have become as popular as Ecstasy tablets, Lasala added.

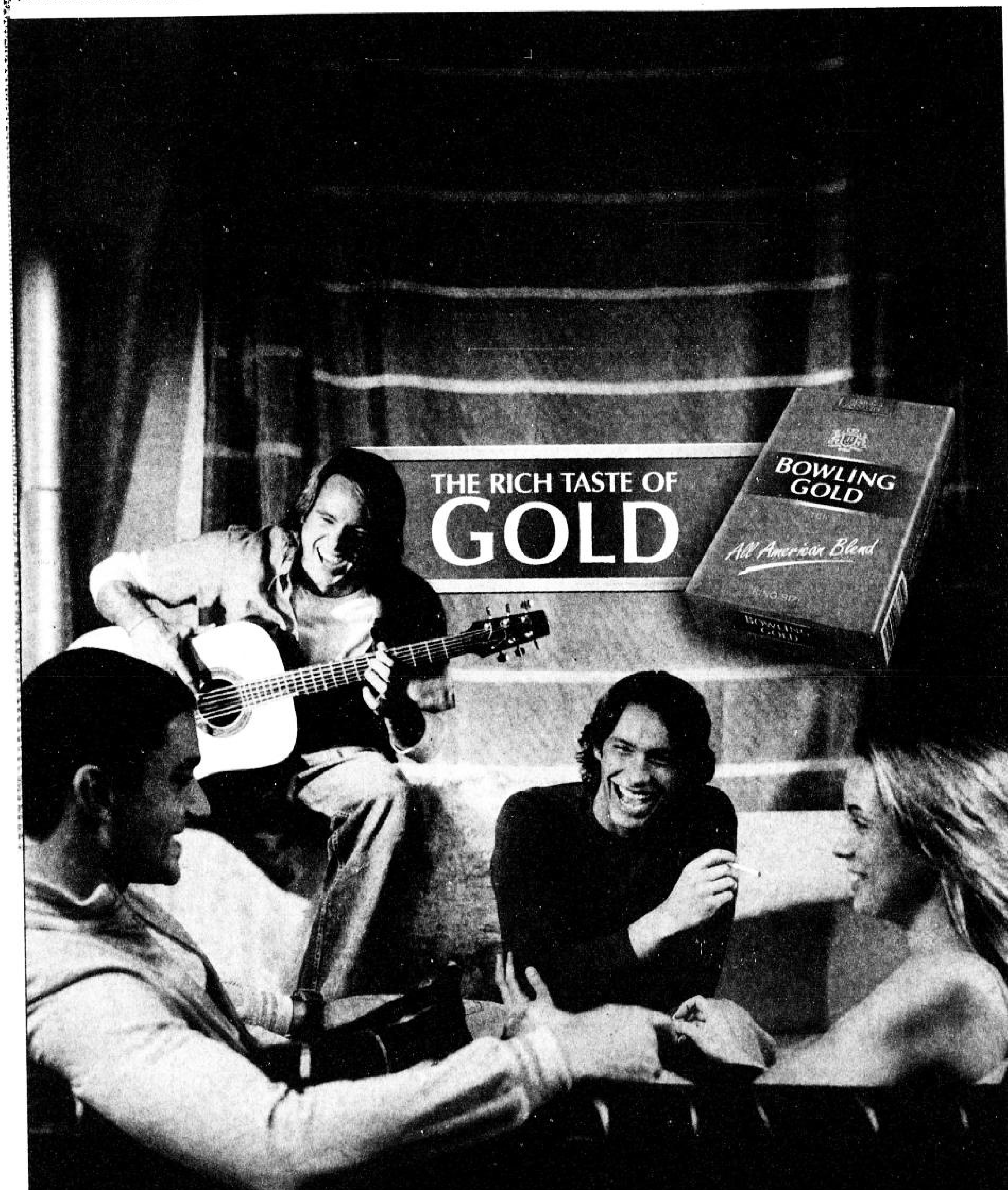
"The vials, which cost about a thousand each, triple in price when sold in powder form abroad," he explained. Apart from its hallucinogenic effects on party goers, ketamine can also be used by sex predators to disable their victims. "Liquid ketamine can easily be mixed with beverages while the powder form can be sprinkled on cigarettes," Lasala said, explaining that ketamine use could increase blood pressure by 85 percent and the heart rate by 20 percent.

Ketamine is a legal drug sold as a sedative for animals or as anesthetic for humans. When used on people, it acts as a disassociative anesthesia, making the user vaguely aware of, but detached from all bodily sensations. Its most common effects are delirium, vivid hallucinations, confusion, violent or aggressive behavior, vertigo, slurred speech, delayed reaction time, euphoria, and amnesia.

Last year, the Dangerous Drugs Board reclassified ketamine as a controlled substance to make unauthorized possession of the drug punishable by law.

Esmeralda said he would send two of his agents to India next week to identify who was behind the importation. "We will also investigate Abichandi's possible connections at the BOC," he added.

Mantaring said charges for violation of Republic Act 9165 or the Comprehensive Dangerous Drugs Act of 2002 had been filed against the suspect. No bail was recommended for Abichandi's temporary freedom.



Government Warning: Cigarette smoking is dangerous to your health

'Car hijacking suspect not one of us'—MMDA

By Tarra V. Quismundo

HE'S NOT OURS.

The Metropolitan Manila Development Authority (MMDA) yesterday said that the car theft suspect who was killed by policemen in La Union on Tuesday was not one of the agency's traffic enforcers.

MMDA Traffic Operations Center Executive Director Angelito Vergel de Dios said that Estiven Liwanag was never one of their employees. "We do not have a man named Estiven Liwanag on our records. What we have is one Ernesto Liwanag," said Vergel de Dios. Liwanag was shot dead by members of the Philippine National Police Traffic Management Group (PNP-TMG) Region 4 in Santo Tomas, La Union on Tuesday morning.

The police recovered from the suspect an identification card which showed that he was an MMDA traffic enforcer. Vergel de Dios, however, said the ID card could be fake.

Two other suspects, Roberto Pepito and Raymond Bongabong, both of Las Piñas City, were also arrested in Tuesday's police operation.

The two, along with Liwanag, were suspected of hijacking a car driven by Richard Capili, a 19-year-old nursing student, on Sunday. Capili was killed in the incident.

Family turns over minor to city jail

By Edson C. Tandoc Jr.

A BOY WHO ESCAPED FROM THE PASIG City Jail earlier this week was surrendered by his family to authorities yesterday.

The 17-year-old boy, jailed on robbery charges, was among the 10 children who escaped on Monday.

But when the teenager visited his 6-month-old child in their house in Barangay Bagong Ilog in Pasig City yesterday, his family decided to bring him to the Barangay Hall. Officials later turned the boy over to jail authorities.

"We talked to his family to convince his relatives to surrender the boy to us. We knew he would first go there," barangay chair Ferdinand Avis told the INQUIRER. The boy was among the 10 minors who escaped from the city jail early Monday morning by sawing the iron grills on the window and jumping off a five-meter wall to freedom. One other escapee has already been caught.

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Dumps can stay open for now, says BF

By Tarra V. Quismundo and DJ Yap

THE NAVOTAS AND PAYATAS controlled dumps can continue to operate, despite the Feb. 16 deadline set for the closure of all controlled waste dumps as required by Republic Act (RA) 9903, or the Ecological Solid Waste Management Act of 2000.

Officials of the Metropolitan Manila Development Authority (MMDA) and the Quezon City government said the dumps will remain open until preparations for their safe and "environmentally sound" shutdown are completed.

"The controlled dumps were allowed by the National Solid Waste Management Board (NSWMB) to be used until the slopes of the garbage pile have been prepared in such a way that there is no danger of ponding of waste water, which is hazardous," said MMDA Chair Bayani Fernando yesterday.

Ponding refers to the accumulation of waste water at the top of the garbage pile.

"For a dump to be closed, the requirement is it should be environmentally sound. If they haven't filled the dump up to a certain capacity that would allow a viable closure, it means the dumping of more garbage ... [or else] it would create an environmental hazard," MMDA General Manager Robert Nacianceno said.

As explained during Wednesday's 9th Consultative Meeting at the MMDA for the implementation of RA 9003, the accumulated trash in the dumps should be of the required height and slope to ensure that the trash would be leveled off evenly prior to closure, to avoid a trash slide.

Quezon City Mayor Feliciano Belmonte Jr. also confirmed that it's business as usual at Payatas although he stressed that the controlled dump will only process the city's garbage. He added that the city government had already submitted a "closure plan" to the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) detailing its plan to rehabilitate the dump.

But while the Payatas dump remained open, Navotas Mayor Toby Tiangco ordered the temporary closure of the Tanza controlled dump and the diversion of the town's garbage to the Montalban trash facility. Tiangco said he had written the DENR to ask for a clarification regarding the department's announcement that local government units operating a controlled dump would be allowed to complete their closure plan with the approval of the NSWMB. *With Nancy C. Carvajal*

GIFT OF LOVE
Nini Quezon Avanceña (right), daughter of the late President Manuel L. Quezon, spearheads the planting of "Mussuenda Doña Aurora," named after her mother, former First Lady Doña Aurora, at the grounds of the Hospicio de San Jose in Manila, with environment advocates from the Makati Garden Club and Winner Foundation. RYAN LIM

METROBRIEFS

Taxi driver shot dead

A TAXI driver was shot dead by two men in Marikina City Wednesday night. Mark Claro Jr., 32, was talking to a street vendor on Bayan-Bayanan Avenue, Barangay Marikina Heights when two men approached them and shot Claro in the head. The suspects then fled on board a dark colored Honda Civic. Witnesses described one of the killers as about 5'6" tall, between 35-40 years old, wearing a shirt and a pair of denim pants. A relative told investigators Claro had been receiving death threats before he was killed, possibly because of the P3,000 he had borrowed from a lender. His fellow taxi drivers also told investigators they knew that somebody had threatened to kill the victim. Police recovered two spent shells from a .45-caliber gun at the crime scene.

Edson C. Tandoc Jr.

AIM alumni homecoming

THE MBA CLASS '86 will host the Asian Institute of Management (AIM) alumni homecoming this year. Opening the celebration is the AIM Triple A Cup Badminton Tournament on Feb. 25 at the Manila Polo Club, followed by the AIM2Lead Cup 2006 Golf Tournament on March 3 at the Ayala Greenfield Golf & Leisure Club. The highlight will be the AIM Alumni Homecoming 2006 Night on March 3, 7:30 p.m. at the NBC Tent, Fort Bonifacio, Global City. Registration is at 5:30 p.m. Innove Communications Inc. chief executive officer Gil B. Genio is the overall chair of the homecoming. For more information, please call the AIM Alumni Center at 893-7410 or 811-6606.

KID CENTER MARKS 4TH YEAR
Muntinlupa City Mayor Jaime R. Fresnedi (second from left) with Pastor Paul Chase during the 4th anniversary of the Social Development Center for street children.

Cop in hot water

By Jocelyn R. Uy

A QUEZON CITY policeman and three other men were arrested Wednesday for allegedly extorting money from Taguig City residents.

Authorities identified the suspects as P02 Alberto Gomez of the Quezon City Police District, Pacifico Guinto, Dominador Prudencio and Rodolfo Pastrana Jr., all from Caloocan City.

They were arrested after Zenaida Librea, of Purok 13, Zone 6 in Signal Village, Taguig City, called up the policemen to complain.

According to Librea, the four were trying to force her to buy thousands of pesos worth of tickets from their group, the Citizen Crimebuster Network.

Upon investigation, the police found out that the four men had been going around the city, posing as members of the local government's engineering office and looking for houses or establishments that were under construction.

If the owners had failed to secure the necessary building permits from City Hall, the four would force them to buy tickets worth P3,000 to P5,000 in exchange for "getting them off the hook," the police said.

According to Ana Santos, public information officer, two more complainants have surfaced and claimed that they were also victimized by the four men.

Truckers plan new rally

By Nancy C. Carvajal

A GROUP OF TRUCK DRIVERS will reportedly stage another rally to protest the load limit being imposed on trucks plying the North Luzon Expressway (NLEx).

Newly appointed Northern Police District director Chief Supt. Leopoldo Bataoil announced this yesterday following a meeting with officials of the Manila North Tollways Corp. (MNTC), which operates the expressway.

Last week, traffic was jammed for hours in roads leading to the NLEx as hundreds of members of the Alliance of Concerned Truck Owners and Organizations (Actoo), on board their trucks, tried to stage a rally near the toll gate. They were stopped, however, by the police.

The MNTC imposes a load limit of 13.5 tons per axle and charges truckers between P1,500 and P2,700 for each violation. The truckers have asked for a moratorium.

"We have received reports about the truckers' plan, but we are ready to prevent it," Bataoil said.

Office of the President
BCDA
Bases Conversion and Development Authority
AMENDMENT
Invitation to Apply for Eligibility and to Bid
Republic of the Philippines
Construction of Concrete Overpasses in the Provinces of Bataan and Tarlac

The Bases Conversion and Development Authority (BCDA), through the BCDA 2006 Corporate Funds intends to apply the corresponding sum listed hereunder being the Approved Budget for Contract (ABC). Bids received in excess of the ABC shall be automatically rejected at Bid opening.

Name of Project	Brief Description	Approved Budget for the Contract	Source of Funds
Construction of Concrete Overpasses	Construction of the following: Ligaya Overpass (Tarlac) Tinang Overpass (Tarlac) Pitabunan Overpass (Tarlac) Sto Nino Overpass (Tarlac) Hacienda Luisita1 (Tarlac) San Ramon Overcrossing Bridge (Bataan) Maite Overcrossing Bridge (Bataan)	P146,000,000.00	Corporate Funds

BCDA now calls for the submission of Letters of Intent (LOIs) from potential Bidders to apply for eligibility for the Construction of Concrete Overpasses. **Bidders should possess a valid PCAB license of AT LEAST AA, LARGE A,** have completed a similar contract with a value of at least fifty percent (50%) of the ABC, and meet the other minimum eligibility requirements stated in the Eligibility Documents. Interested Bidders must submit their LOIs on **20-22 February 2006, 8:00am to 5:00pm,** at BCDA Corporate Center, 2/F Bonifacio Technology Center, 31st St. cor. 2nd Ave., Bonifacio Global City, Taguig City and secure the Eligibility Documents therefrom upon payment of a non-refundable fee of Twenty Thousand Pesos (P20,000.00). Applications for eligibility will be evaluated on a "pass/fail" basis. The last day for the submission of the accomplished Eligibility Documents shall be on the date of the opening of Eligibility Documents, **07 March 2006, 3:00PM** at BCDA Corporate Center, 2/F Bonifacio Technology Center, 31st St. corner 2nd Avenue, Bonifacio Global City, Taguig City. Only those Bidders passing the eligibility check will be entitled to purchase the Bidding Documents.

Bidding will be conducted through open competitive bidding procedures as specified in the Implementing Rules and Regulations Part A (IRR-A) of Republic Act 9184 (R.A. 9184) otherwise known as the "Government Procurement Reform act," and is restricted, unless otherwise stated, to organizations with at least seventy-five percent (75%) interest or outstanding capital stock belonging to citizens of the Philippines. In accordance with the IRR-A of RA 9184, only Bids from eligible Bidders will be opened. In accordance with the IRR-A of RA 9184 a contract will only be awarded to the Lowest Calculated and Responsive Bidder who was determined as such during post-qualification.

Interested Bidders shall submit their accomplished Eligibility Documents to the BAC Secretariat at BCDA Corporate Center, 2/F Bonifacio Technology Center, 31st St. cor. 2nd Ave., Bonifacio Global City, Taguig City on or before **07 March 2006, 3:00PM.**

Interested eligible Bidders may obtain further information from BCDA and inspect the Bidding Documents at the address given below from 9:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. on 15 March 2006.

A complete set of Bidding Documents may be purchased by Bidders that passed the eligibility check upon presentation of the Notice of Eligibility to the BAC Secretariat, at the address below and upon payment of a nonrefundable fee of Fifty Thousand Pesos (P50,000.00). The Bidding Documents shall be received personally by the Bidder or his authorized representative on **15-17 March 2006, 8:00am to 5:00pm.**

BCDA will hold a **Pre-Bid Conference** open to all Eligible Bidders on **21 March 2006, 10:00am,** at the BCDA Corporate Center, 2/F Bonifacio Technology Center, 31st St. cor. 2nd Ave., Bonifacio Global City, Taguig City.

Eligible Bidders must submit their Bids at the address below on or before **10:00 am of 06 April 2006.**

All Bids must be accompanied by a Bid security in any of the following form:

a. Cash, managers check, cashiers' check, irrevocable letter of credit, or bank draft – one percent (1%) of the Approved Budget for the Contract
b. Bank Guarantee – one and a half percent (1½ %) of the Approved Budget for the Contract
c. Surety Bond from a reputable insurance company accredited by the Insurance Commission – two and a half percent (2½ %) of the Approved Budget for the Contract

Late Bids shall not be accepted. Bid opening shall be on **10:30am of 06 April 2006** at BCDA Corporate Center, 2/F Bonifacio Technology Center, 31st St. cor. 2nd Ave. Bonifacio Global City, Taguig City. Bids will be opened in the presence of the Bidders' representatives who choose to attend at the aforementioned address on **10:30am of 06 April 2006.**

Completion of the Works is required by a total of One Hundred Twenty (120) calendar days.

BCDA reserves the right to accept or reject any Bid, to annul the bidding process, and to reject all Bids at any time prior to contract award, without thereby incurring liability to the affected Bidder or Bidders.

BASES CONVERSION AND DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY
GEN NARCISO L. ABAYA (RET.) – President and CEO
BCDA Corporate Center, 2/F Bonifacio Technology Center, 31st St. cor. 2nd Ave., Bonifacio Global City, Taguig City
Telephone Number (632) 816-6666 Telfax No. (632) 816-0996
Website: www.bcda.gov.ph

This Notice amends the previously advertised **Invitation to Apply for Eligibility and to Bid** published on 28 January 2006 and 02 February 2006 advertised in this paper.

VICTOR V. ZABLAN
Chairman – BAC for SCTEP

(PDI–Feb 11 & 17, 2006)

Republic of the Philippines
Department of Health
CENTER for HEALTH DEVELOPMENT-METRO MANILA
Acacia Lane Welfareville Compound, Mandaluyong City
Tel. No. 535-4542 / Fax No. 535-4595
E-mail: chd_mm@yahoo.com
Sentrong Sigla

Invitation to Apply for Eligibility and To Bid
Procurement of Various Goods

The Center for Health Development-Metro Manila (CHD-MM), through the GOP funds – CY 2006 intends to apply the sum of the following goods being the Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC) to payments under the contract. Bids received in excess of the ABC shall be automatically rejected at Bid opening. The CHD-MM now invites sealed Bids, from eligible Bidders for the procurement of various goods. Delivery of the GOODS is required by second quarter of CY 2006. The description of an eligible Bidder is contained in Section II of the Bidding Documents, ITB.

IAEB No.	GOODS	ABC	Bid Document Price
2006-001	Security Services (a) CHD-MM (b) SLRWH	 2,755,200.00 1,082,400.00	P 8,000.00
2006-002	Internet Service Provider	300,000.00	2,000.00
2006-003	Blood Bags	356,000.00	2,000.00
2006-004	Fuel & Lubricants	300,000.00	2,000.00
2006-005	Reproduction of various forms /manuals (a) Decision Making Tools (b) FHSIS forms	 250,000.00 255,000.00	2,000.00

Bidding will be conducted through open competitive bidding procedures using non-discretionary pass/fail criteria as specified in the Implementing Rules and Regulations Part A (IRR-A) of Republic Act No. 9184 (R.A. 9184), otherwise known as the Government Procurement Reform Act, and is restricted to organizations with at least sixty percent (60%) interest or outstanding capital stock belonging to citizens of the Philippines, as specified in Republic Act 5183 (R.A. 5183). Only Bids from Bidders who pass the eligibility check will be opened. The process for the eligibility check is described in Section II of the Bidding Documents, ITB. The bidder with the lowest calculated bid (LCB) shall advance to the post-qualifications stage in order to finally determine his responsiveness to the technical and financial requirements of the project. The contract shall then be awarded to the Lowest Calculated and Responsive Bidder (LCRB) who was determined as such during the post-qualification procedure.

Interested Bidders may obtain further information from Supply Section (c/o Ms. Zenaida B. Reyes at tel. no. 535-4542) and inspect the Bidding Documents at the address given below from 9:00 am to 3:00 pm.

A complete set of Bidding Documents may be purchased by interested Bidders from the address below and upon payment of a non-refundable fee on February 20, 2006 – March 3, 2006. The method of payment will be in cash. The Bidding Documents shall be received personally by the prospective Bidder or his authorized representative.

The CHD-MM will hold a Pre-Bid Conference open to all interested parties on March 8, 2006 (9:00 am) at the CHD-MM Amphitheatre, Acacia Lane Welfareville Compound, Mandaluyong City.

Bids and eligibility requirements must be delivered to the CHD-MM Amphitheater, Acacia Lane, Welfareville Compound, Mandaluyong City on date stated below. All Bids must be accompanied by a Bid security in the form of Government Service Insurance System (GSIS) Surety Bond and in the amount of equivalent not exceeding to two and half percent (2.5%) of the total ABC or an equivalent amount in a freely convertible currency. Late Bids shall not be accepted.

Bid opening shall be at the CHD-MM Amphitheatre, Acacia lane, Welfareville Compound, Barangay Addition Hills, Mandaluyong City on time and date stated below. Bids will be opened in the presence of the Bidders' representatives who choose to attend at the address below.

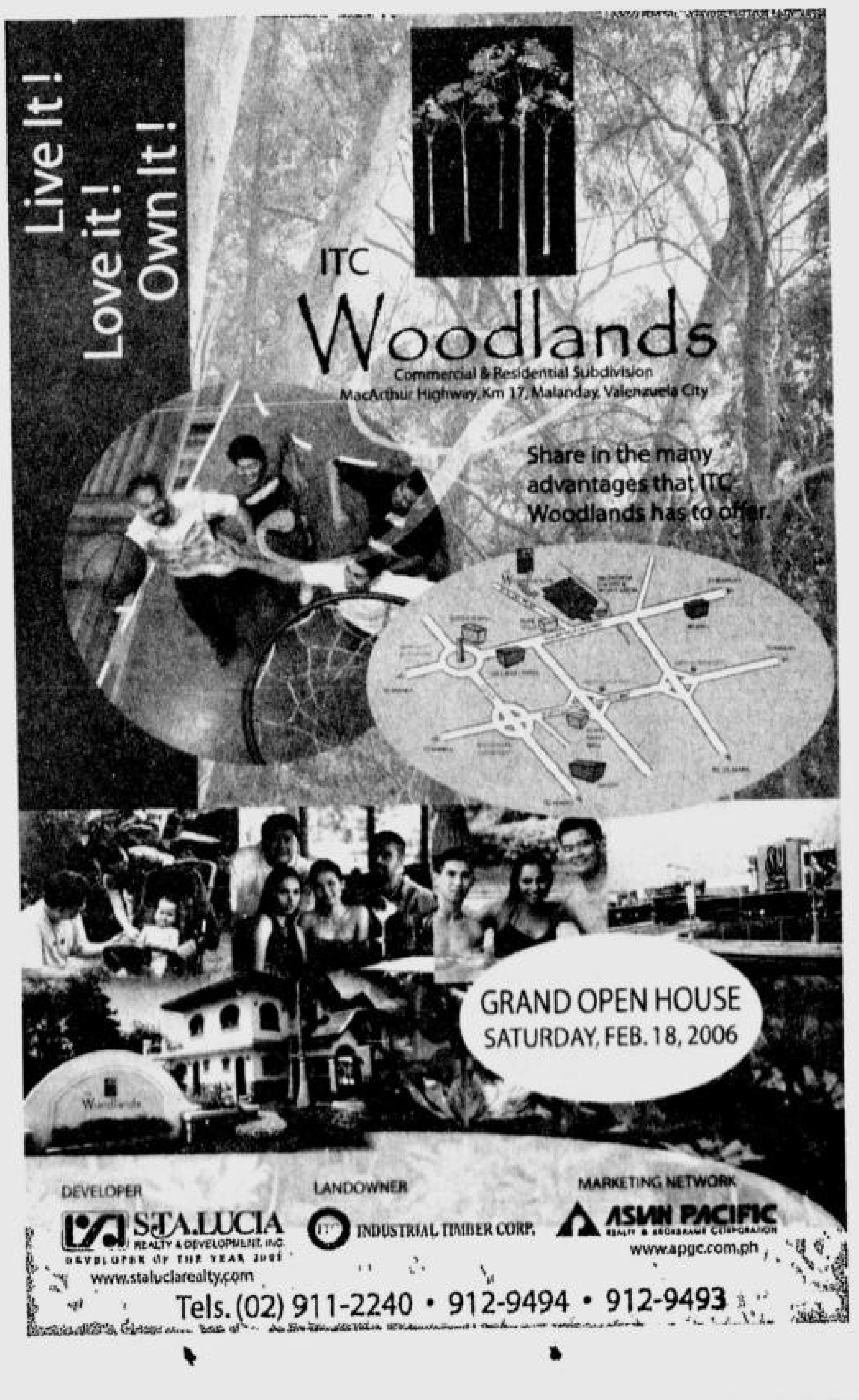
IAEB No.	Submission of Bids & Eligibility Requirements (Time & Date)	Bid Opening (Time & Date)
2006-001	9:00 am March 22, 2006	9:15 am March 22, 2006
2006-002	1:30 pm March 22, 2006	1:45 pm March 22, 2006
2006-003	9:00 am March 23, 2006	9:15 am March 23, 2006
2006-004	1:30 pm March 23, 2006	1:45 pm March 23, 2006
2006-005	9:00 am March 24, 2006	9:15 am March 24, 2006

The CHD-MM reserves the right to accept or reject any Bid, and to annul the bidding process and reject all Bids at any time prior to contract award, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected Bidder or Bidders.

CENTER FOR HEALTH DEVELOPMENT-METRO MANILA
DR. RUBEN S. SIAPNO
Acacia Lane, Welfareville Compound, Mandaluyong City
Tel. No. (632) 535-45-42
E-mail address: chd_mm@yahoo.com
Fax No. (632) 535-45-95

(Sgd.) RUBEN S. SIAPNO, MD, MPH
Chairman
Bids & Awards Committee

(PDI – February 17 & 24, 2006)



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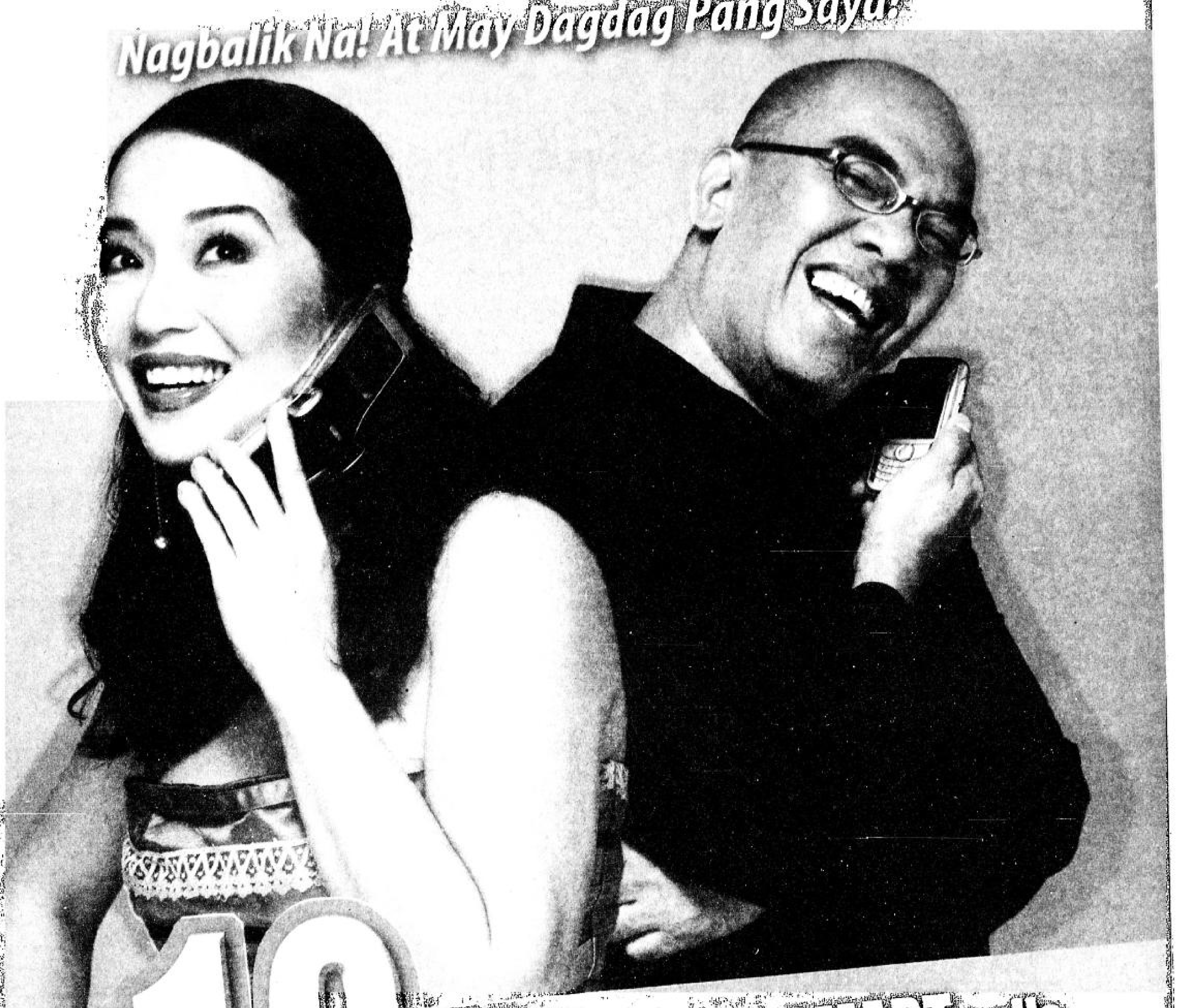

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16 Sukat St.
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3.01 mins. up to 5 mins.	P15 flatrate calls	2 raffle entries

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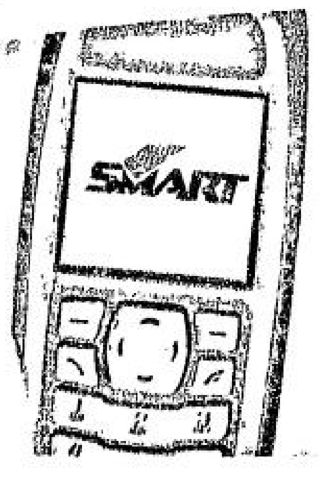
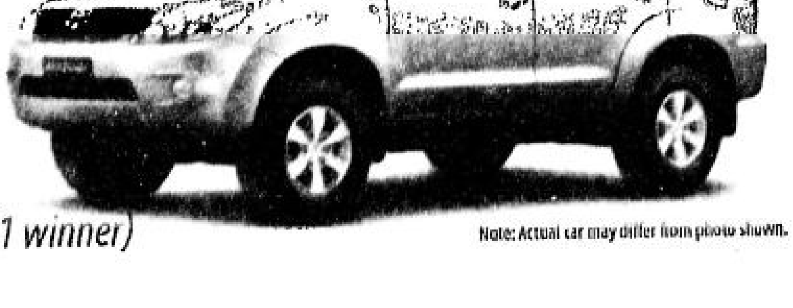


- **P1,000 worth of Airtime Daily** (250 winners)



- **Toyota Fortuner sa Grand Draw** (1 winner)

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NGRATULA
CHAMPI

Wizards do the trick

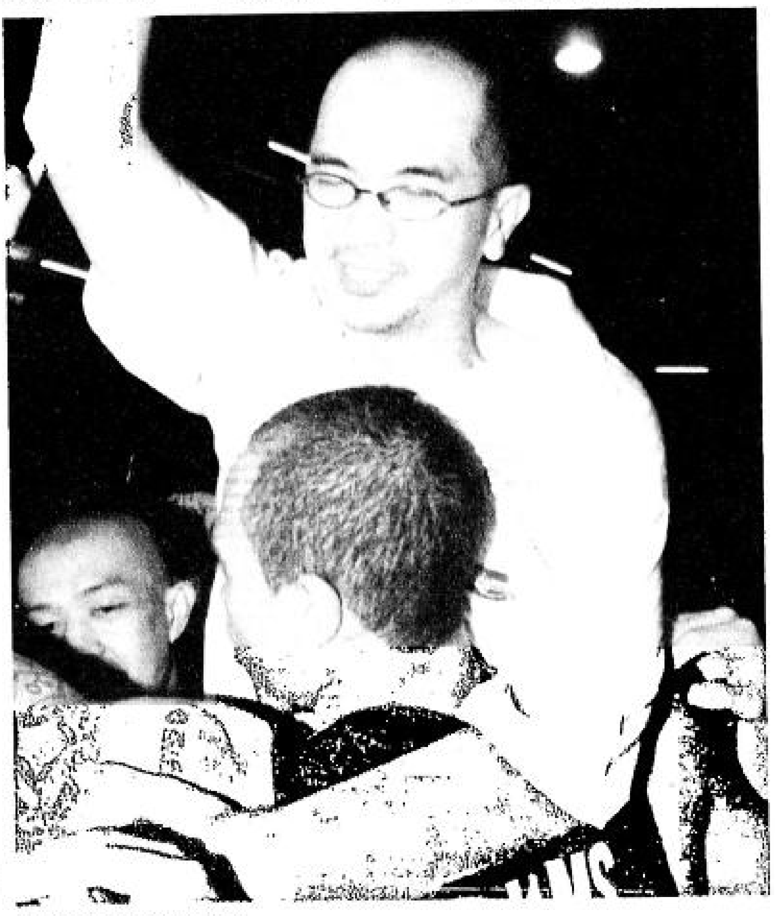
Magnolia takes Heroes Cup with stunning late blast

By Jasmine W. Payo

THE MAGNOLIA WIZARDS TURNED LETHAL IN THE CLOSING minutes to complete their phenomenal comeback.

From the stars to the supporting cast, the Wizards showcased their attacking flair to repulse the Rain or Shine Elasto Painters and rule the PBL Heroes Cup with a 75-60 triumph yesterday in their do-or-die Game 5 match at the

WIZARDS/ A26



MAGNOLIA standout Kelly Williams hugs coach Koy Banal after the stirring Game 5 victory that clinched for the Ice Cream Wizards the PBL Heroes Cup title from a 0-2 series deficit. Top, the jubilant Wizards and team officials celebrate the championship win.

RYAN LIM

Giants gun for 3rd win in a row
A26

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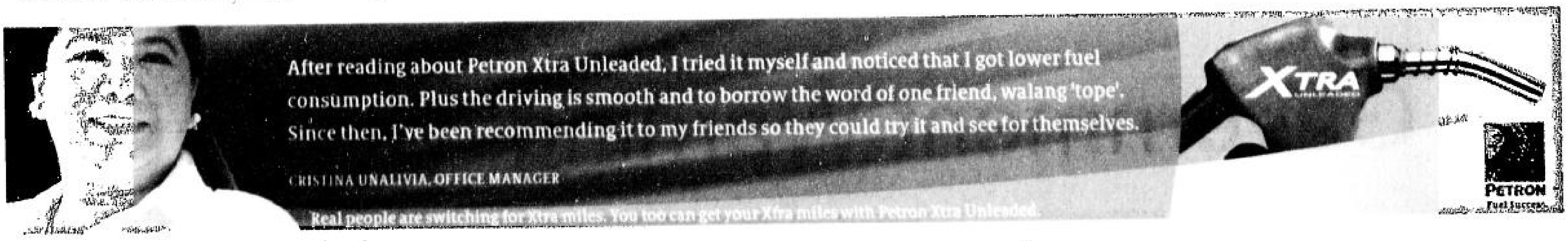
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Clark Field's dilemma

CLEAN LIVING

Manolo R. Iñigo

CLARK AIR BASE USED TO HAVE the best public image of any US military installation in the Far East before it was abandoned by the Americans due to the Mt. Pinatubo eruption in 1991.

In its heyday, Clark Field served as a staging point for strategic airlifts, including rescue and emergency cases; maintained a program of air-combat readiness and provided modern training for air crews from the United States, the Philippines and America's allies. The base was also used extensively during the Korean War and served as a logistics transit point during the Vietnam War. Clark was a place to be proud of, a place where the Filipino workers earned higher-than-average wages, a place where the locals enjoyed the latest American fads and gave many young girls a chance at American citizenship.

Now things are different. Mention Clark and one of the things that comes to mind is the issue of toxic waste contamination. The issue raises more questions than answers when it is taken up. For instance, people are now confused over two recent conflicting reports on the toxic waste issue.

First is the response of Antonio Ng, Clark Development Corp. president and chief executive officer, to a question asked by INQUIRER correspondents on the presence of toxic wastes left by the American military in Clark (PDI, 2/1/06). Said Ng: "In all the investment applications, there's always the DENR certification. We deputize people to make sure businesses comply with environmental requirements. A two-year study in 1995-96 identified where the risks are and what steps to make.

"When we looked at the sites, it turned out that in Mabalacat, construction debris had been treated by the Americans with pesticide control. In another area, they noted oil contamination. During the time of the Americans, this was the place where they practiced fire drills and tested their capability to fight fire… This is a non-issue."

On the other hand, Tonette Orejas of the PDI Central Luzon desk, had reported that two persons died of toxic-related illnesses (PDI, 1/19/06).

According to Orejas, one of the victims was 54-year-old Rosalinda Pineda—a woman belonging to a group of 47 people who tested positive for high levels of arsenic and lead in their blood after living in an evacuation center said to be contaminated with military pollutants—who died of a kidney ailment.

Pineda was the first to die among the "Cabcom 47," said the People's Task Force for Bases Cleanup. A native of Porac, Pineda resided at the Clark Airbase Command for four years together with about 20,000 families who were evacuated there following the Mt. Pinatubo eruption in 1991.

Another former evacuee, Rogelio Banque, also died of a toxic-related illness.

Over time, I have repeatedly written that the toxic problem in Clark is a serious matter. I have opposed the proposal to build a modern sports complex there mainly because the reported presence of contaminated chemicals there could be harmful to the physical and mental health of the athletes who would be housed there. I also said the Americans have moral obligation to clean up the toxic wastes they left behind, even though the 1947 RP-US Military Bases Agreement did not require environmental remediation. Methinks no government should be allowed to take for granted this problem by merely invoking legal justification. The issue here is not legal, but moral.

PIVOTAL GAME 5

Awakened Giants have momentum

KERBY RAYMUNDO'S FAILED BID AT THE CONFERENCE MVP PLUM couldn't be worse than the ACL tear that took Jondan Salvador out of the San Mig Coffee PBA Fiesta Conference championship series for good.

GAME TODAY
(*Araneta Coliseum*)
6:45 p.m.—Purefoods vs Red Bull Barako

SERIES RESULTS
Game 1—Red Bull d. Purefoods, 107-102
Game 2—Red Bull d. Purefoods, 98-84
Game 3—Purefoods d. Red Bull, 103-97
Game 4—Purefoods d. Red Bull, 96-91

Still, Purefoods Chunkee can use them as motivational tools today when the Giants go for a third straight win and the lead over Red Bull in Game 5 of their best-of-seven series at the Araneta Coliseum.

The Giants tied the series at 2-2 and reduced the championship duel into a best-of-three after toppling the Bulls in Game 4.

It was a victory literally made possible by Raymundo's desire to prove a point after losing the Player of the Conference award to Red Bull's Enrico Villanueva earlier.

After hitting clutch baskets in the stretch and standing out in the defensive end to key a 96-91 win on Wednesday, Raymundo broke down in tears after the game.

He did not talk to scribes about Villanueva selection, although he made his feelings known on national television when he said that he was the true MVP of the conference.

"We're back in the series," said Raymundo, who vowed to lead his team to the title. "God is good and He's always there *kahit may nawala sa amin* (even if we lost a player)."

"Come Friday, it's going to be war," said Purefoods coach Ryan Gregorio.

Another victory today would move him and his Giants closer to duplicating a feat they achieved in the 2002 Governors Cup against the Alaska Aces.

"They won two straight games, we won the last two and for sure, nobody is going to give an inch," added Gregorio, who masterfully steered the then-Tender Juicy Hotdogs to a seven-game title conquest of the Aces.

Raymundo could find life underneath harder with frontcourt partner Salvador out for the rest of the series after rupturing ligaments in his right knee during a fastbreak play in the first quarter.

And the Bulls could pounce on this by attacking the paint more often and baiting Marquin Chandler, Mark Pingris and Richard Yee, all foul-prone Giants, into early four trouble.

"This is the time when the series gets more exciting," said Red Bull coach Yeng Guiao.

"Again, I'm not putting the blame on anyone in the team. I know they tried hard; too bad the calls went the other way."

June Navarro

RED Bull's Larry Fonacier str Marquin Chandler in Game 4

Wizards do the trick, snatch PBL Hero

From page A25

jampacked San Andres Gym.

Finals Most Valuable Player Kelly Williams and Arwind Santos delivered the clutch plays for the Wizards, who overcame a 0-2 deficit in the best-of-five series.

A lot of credit, though, also went to a bunch of talented but unheralded players led by Jeff Chan, who received the Pivotal Player citation, RJ Rizada and Jason Misolas.

"It's not just Arwind Santos, anybody can step up," said Magnolia coach Koy Banal.

"We couldn't do anything about the 0-2 (record), but our faith gave us the strength and positive attitude to go on, to work hard and believe," added Banal.

Williams put on another dominant display with 14 points and 14 rebounds. Chan topscored with 16 markers, while Santos and Misolas delivered 15 apiece.

The Painters played without Most Valuable Player Jojo Tangkay, who was suspended for committing two unsportsmanlike fouls in the series.

The final outcome hardly reflected the tight match. It was close throughout until the Wizards pulled away from a 56-56 deadlock in the final three minutes.

The Wizards surged ahead with a 9-0 tear, including a Santos triple for a 65-56 advantage with 1:23 minutes remaining.

The Painters' scoreless streak continued, allowing the Wizards to pad their lead by as many as 16 points, 73-57.

"I give credit to the five players on the floor (in the closing minutes)," said Banal. "They made a stop in every defensive possession that's why the blowout."

Behind the efforts of Chan, who strung up eight points in the third quarter, the Wizards bounced back after the break for a 42-37 lead.

The Wizards, though, could not extend the lead further after Erwin Sta. Maria and Ronjay Enrile fired back-to-back treys to cut the gap, 44-43.

The Painters continued to match the Wizards aggressive play with Junjun Cabatu nailing seven consecutive points in the fourth period to tie the game at 56.

It was the Painters who seized the early lead, 12-6, behind big man Marvin Ortiguera. But Magnol
10-2 run capp
Wizards their r

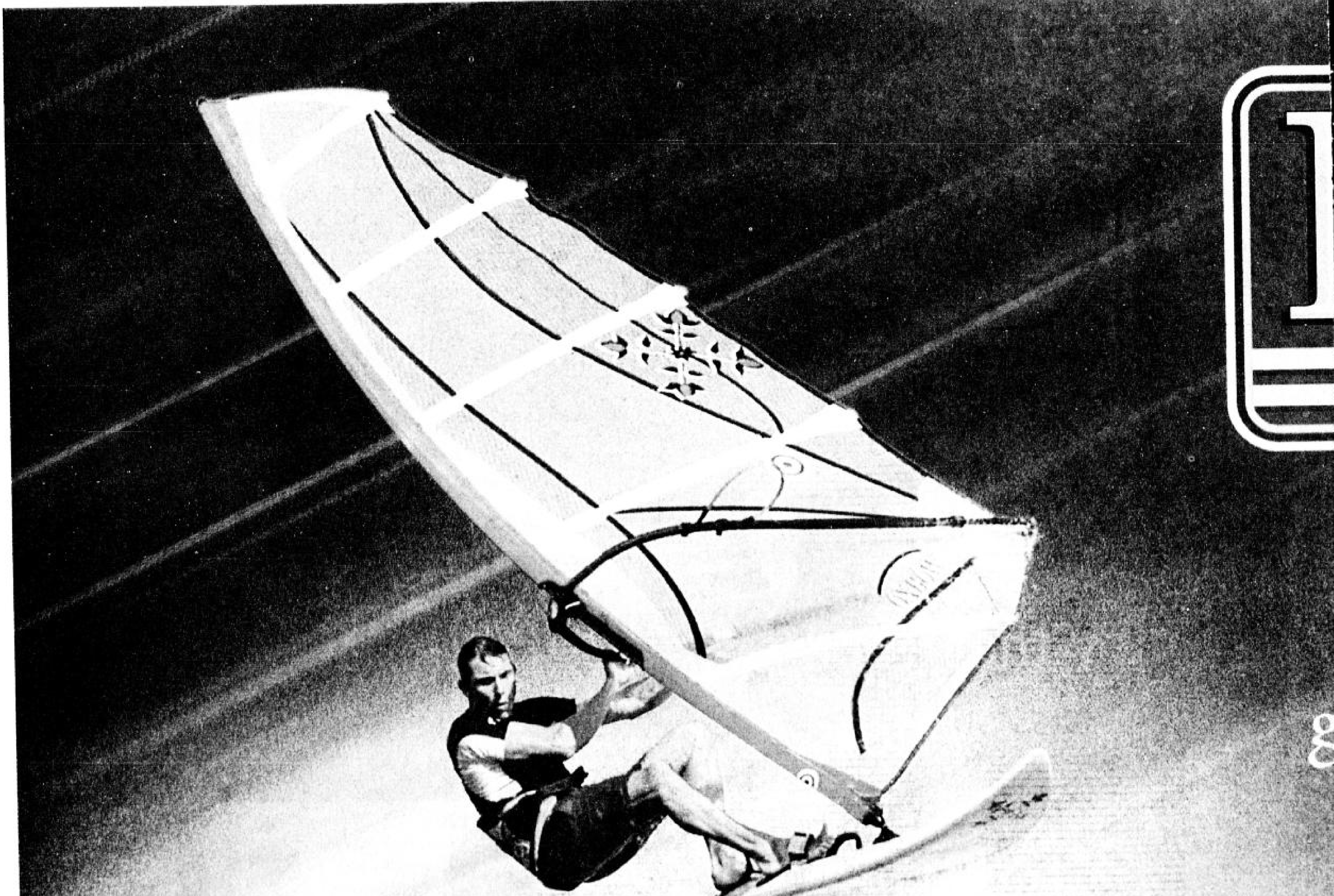
Rain or Sh
the name Wel
ner-take-all m
team lost to S
finals, and d
tests against
2002 and vers

The scores:

MAGNOLIA 75—
14, Jones 4, Rizada

RAIN OR SHI
Sta. Maria 8, Enri
banan 2, Aljamal

Quarters: 16-1



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etches for a shot off Purefoods' Richard Yee (28) and
at the Cuneta Astrodome Wednesday. EDWIN BACASMAS

Canlubang all out to halt Luisita's amazing streak

By Ernesto A. Gonzales

DAVAO—CANLUBANG, OUTCLASSED the last time around, takes another shot at the Seniors championship to embellish its dominant stature in the Philippine Airlines Interclub golf tournament which starts here today.

Led by defending champion Tommy Manotoc, the Canlubang shotmakers remain the only team with a legitimate chance to stop Luisita's record bid for a sixth straight title—and 13th overall—since the event for players 55 years and above started in 1988.

Luisita overpowered Canlubang by 24 points, 487-463, last year as the Tarlac-based squad powered by Iggy Clavecilla, Alex Montelibano, Francis Gaston and Richie Garcia delivered a fitting tribute to their then recently departed team captain, Rudy Samson.

The core of that crack Luisita team is back, but Canlubang is no pushover this time with Luigi Yulo, Rollie Viray, Bing Bunye and Bayo Adriano backstopping Manotoc, who is actually seeking a third consecutive individual crown.

The Seniors battle is actually an extension of the old Canlubang-Luisita rivalry in the centerpiece men's regular division, which the Laguna parbusters have dominated with 12 titles so far as against eight by their arch rivals.

The two squads renew their rivalry starting tomorrow at the flat Lanang Golf and Country Club before they move to the tough Apo course for the final round of the 36-hole event on Sunday.

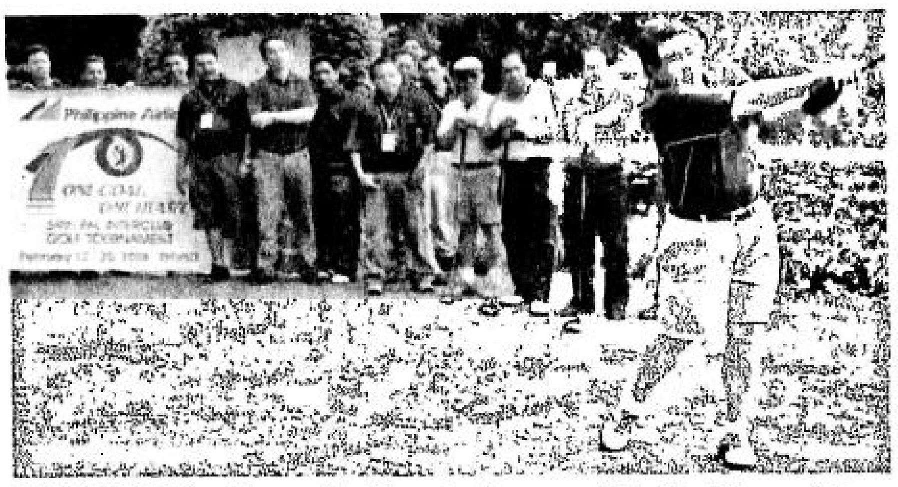
Also seeing action tomorrow are the clubs in the Founders Division won by Villamor last year over Negros Occidental and Wack Wack.

Davao Mayor Rodrigo Duterte launched the 59th edition of the popular tournament yesterday by hitting the ceremonial drive at Lanang.

Action in the Friendship and Sportswriters Divisions will usher in today the three-day event which drew 73 teams, including 24 foreign clubs. The US-based Maharlika Golf Club ruled the Friendship class last year while Hawaii Fil-Am Club scored in the Sportswriters category.

This year's major sponsors are Action Asia, Airbus, Boeing, GE Aviation, GMA 7, Honda Cars Davao, INQ7.net, Joey 92.3, Royal Caribbean International, Pagcor, People Asia, Premier Wine & Spirits, Rudy Project and UMBN.

ABS-CBN International, Fortune Tobacco and Radio Mindanao Network are the corporate sponsors while 96.3 WRock, Asia Brewery, Century Park Hotel, Honda Megamotors, SM City Davao and Tanduay Rhum are the minor sponsors.



PHILIPPINE Airlines vice president for marketing support Felix Cruz hits one of six ceremonial drives to officially open the 20th PAL Seniors Interclub at the Apo Golf & Country Club in Davao City yesterday. Joining Cruz in doing the honors were some of Davao's top sportsmen, including Vice Mayor Luis Bongoyan, presidential adviser Jesus Dureza, Commissioner Leon Montemayor of the Philippine Sports Commission, Roberto Dakudao Sr. of co-host Lanang and Interclub chair Domingo Duerme.

DHL nat'l jungolf series tomorrow

THE COUNTRY'S TOP JUNGOLFERS AND age-groupers are seeing action in the first DHL-WWW Express National Age-Group Golf Championships which get underway tomorrow at the Orchard Golf and Country Club course in Dasmariñas, Cavite.

Events on tap are the 15-17, 13-14, 11-12 and 9-10 divisions for both boys and girls. The series is a 36-hole event with the top two placers in each group advancing to the national finals set in May at Villamor.

"We always believe that there are so many untapped talents in the provinces," said DHL and WWW Express chair Rod Feliciano, also the NGAP's honorary chair.

The series schedule: Orchard, Feb. 19-20 and Feb. 26-27; Pueblo de Oro, March 11-12; Negros Occidental Golf and Country Club, March 23-24; Camp John Hay, April 6-7.

es Cup

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Chan 16, Santos 15, Misolas 15, Williams
Isip 3, Valenzuela 2, Co 2.
E '60—Cabatu 21, Ortiguerra 15,
5, Reyes 4, Tan 3, Sagad 2, Mala-

, 29-31, 46-44, 75-60

RACING TIPS

BY TOP CHOICE

Race 1—(Qrt/Tri)—Wynn's Connection (4), Real Magic (5), Cool Cielo (2), Golden Era (3)
Race 2—(Qrt/Tri)—Cool Turner (7), Earth Angel (6), Ole! Ole! Ole! (4), Hot Number (5)
Race 3—(Tri)—Bull Rider (5), Honour N Fame (2), Sharon's Cookie (4)
Race 4—(Qrt/Tri)—Empire Trish (6), Divine Right 95), Silver Music (3), Lady Be Gold (1)
Race 5—(Tri)—Golden Fantasty (5), D As In Dixie (4), Man Power (2)
Race 6—(Qrt/Tri)—Tony's Secret (2), Record Holder (6), Lucky Fil (1), Premiere Event (4)
Race 7—(Qrt/Tri)—Just Joshua (4), Sir Benjo (6), Ingay Ingay (7), Miss Bobon/Scene Stealer (3)
Race 8—(Qrt/Tri)—The Dominator (2), El Love Senora (5), Strong Jays (1), Southern Prince (4)
Race 9—(Super 6/Qrt/Tri)—Key Element (7), Uncle Buck (2), Queen's Abbey/Clear Stone (9), War Bird (6), Real Tough (4), Gun Powder (8)

Miñoza opens with 69

FRANKIE MIÑOZA SHOT A three-under-par 69 Thursday for a share of 19th spot before darkness suspended play in the first round of the Asian Tour's $1.25 million Malaysian Open.

The 43-year-old Miñoza shot a 35-34 round built around four birdies against a bogey to be five shots behind provisional leader Miguel Angel Jimenez, who was working on a flawless 8-under card with still a hole to play.

Thawom Wiratchant of Thailand completed his round at 65, shooting eight birdies against a bogey, even as Angelo Que, the only other Filipino in the 150-player field, left the course with a 2-under card after 12 holes.

Que birdied two of his first three holes at the back before dropping shots on the 14th and 17th holes of the Kuala Lumpur Golf and Country Club course.

Jimenez, the Spanish star, opened with a birdie-birdie-eagle string and had three more birdies in a row from the 14th.

Irishmen Gary Murphy and Francesco Molinari and two others were tied for third after 66s.

World No. 3 heads HK challenge in RP Open

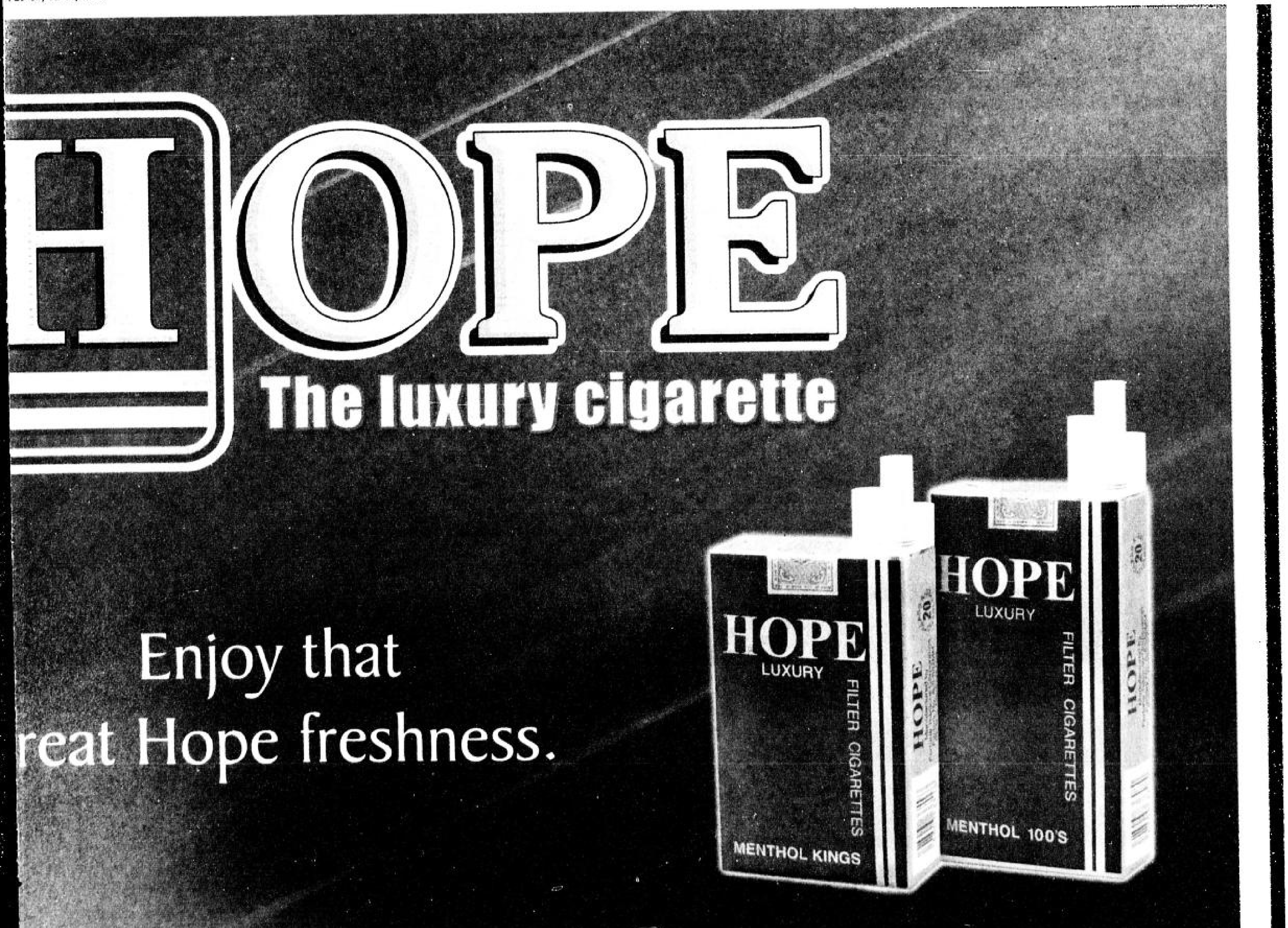
CHEN

LADIES SINGLES WORLD NO. 3 WANG CHEN displays her class act before local fans and against an equally talented field when she spearheads the Hong Kong challenge in the Bingo Bonanza Philippine Open Badminton Championships set March 1 at the PhilSports Arena.

The 30-year-old Chen is fresh off a third place finish in the recent German Open and a quarterfinal stint in the All England Open.

She is among a bunch of world-class shuttlers seeing action in the $120,000 event presented by PLDT Business Solutions, organized by IMG and sponsored by Bingo Bonanza, PLDT, JVC and Smart.

The winner of both the Indonesian Open and the Asian Championships last year, Chen will be up against the crack Dutch tandem of Yao Jie and Mia Audina Tjiptawan, ranked Nos. 6 and 7 in the world.



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SPORTS

James' triple-double negates Pierce's 50

BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS—PAUL PIERCE became the first Celtic since Larry Bird in 1985 to score 50 points, but LeBron James responded with a triple-double that helped Cleveland edge Boston in double overtime.

James had 43 points, 12 rebounds and 11 assists for his fourth triple-double of the season as the Cavaliers eked out a 113-109 double-overtime triumph over the Boston Celtics, which saw Pierce score a career-high 50.

The last Celtic to score 50 points in a National Basketball Association game was Bird, who scored 60 on March 12, 1985.

But Pierce's night ended when he fouled out with 60 seconds left in the second overtime.

Prior to fouling out, Pierce split a pair of free throws at the 1:14 mark to bring the Celtics within 108-107. On the ensuing possession, Pierce fouled out while guarding James, who split a pair of free throws.

Pierce converted a three-point play 16 seconds later tying the game at 102-102. James had a chance to win but missed a layup in the final seconds.

The Celtics held a 90-88 edge with just under two minutes remaining in regulation before James scored five straight points, including a one-handed dunk over West that brought the crowd to its feet.

Pierce made two free throws with two-tenths of a second remaining, tying the game at 93-93. Michael Olowokandi knocked away the ball on the Cavs' final possession, sending the game to overtime.

Meanwhile, the Detroit Pistons traded Darko Milicic and guard Carlos Arroyo to the Orlando Magic on Wednesday for center Kelvin Cato and a first-round pick in a future National Basketball Association draft.

Since being selected second overall in the 2003 draft, Milicic has been a major bust, playing in 25 games this season and averaging 1.5 points and 1.1 rebounds. *AP*

REUTERS

KNICKS' Malik Rose finds himself ganged up by Raptors in their NBA game Feb. 15.

Complete results: Miami 110, Orlando 100; Indiana 88, Milwaukee 77; Philadelphia 103, San Antonio 100 (ot); Cleveland 113, Boston 109 (ot); New Jersey 95, Charlotte 94; NY Knicks 98, Toronto 96; N.O./ Oklahoma City 102, Portland 86; Memphis 84, Sacramento 78; Minnesota 102, Seattle 92; Phoenix 116, Denver 101; Dallas 103, Washington 97; Atlanta 114, LA Lakers 110; Golden State 88, LA Clippers 81.

SOLAR Sports will air the Philadelphia-Chicago tussle at 8:30 a.m today with a replay at 8 p.m.

Wang hands China a gold

TURIN—WANG MENG WON China's first gold medal of the Turin Winter Olympics on Wednesday, battling through a tough final to take the 500 meters short track skating title that everybody expected her to win.

China are a powerhouse at the Summer Games but only captured their first Winter golds in 2002 when Yang Yang took the 500 and 1,000 meters short track but their young athletes are showing they will be a force to be reckoned with in the future.

Bulgaria's Evgenia Radanova did her best to clinch gold in the last metres of the race but it was the Chinese 20-year-old who made it across just ahead, punching the air in glory.

Wang won all four World Cup 500 races this season and was by far the favorite to win here in Turin but she looked tense before the final, wiping her blades and fiddling with her boot.

"I was very tense. I don't know exactly why," Wang said after the race, chatting and smiling with reporters.

"It's difficult to say (how I feel now). I don't really realise I'm an Olympic champion. I'm still too tense about it." At the end of the race, she had no doubts that she had won. *Reuters*

San Beda Law golfest

THE SAN BEDA LAW Golf Club Inc., headed by lawyer Ben Malcontento, will hold its 2006 Grand Inaugural Tournament today at the Philippine Navy Golf Club, Fort Bonifacio. Tee off is from 9 a.m. to 11 a.m. The event is a fundraiser for the legal aid bureau of the San Beda College of Law. Sponsors are Globe Telecoms and Beneficial PNB Life Insurance Inc.

Pagadian nips Bacchus/Harbour

TAGAYTAY CITY—THE PAGADIAN EXPLORers of Mayor Sammy Co banked on their veterans to hold off the youthful Bacchus/Harbour Centre-Manila cagers, 90-85, Wednesday in the National Basketball Conference's fourth pre-season tournament at the International Convention Center here.

Ian Daja and Leo Bat-og combined for six points in the homestretch to power the Explorers to victory in the four-team tourney sponsored by Molten, Spring Cooking Oil, Nature's Spring, Prime Channel and Sulpicio Lines.

The Manilans threatened at 83-84 in the last 1:15 as Nani Epondulan and Brit Reroma clustered five points. But Daja, who led Pagadian with 22 points, knocked in back-to-back baskets to make it 88-83.

The win enabled the Explorers to tie idle Spring Cooking Oil of NBC president Nathaniel "Tac" Padilla for the early lead.

Pagadian raced to a 74-53 lead at the 2:31 mark of the third quarter on a 21-0 blast. But Jay-R Aquino's two triples plus Epodulan's own trey started a fierce Bacchus/Harbour rally.

RAV 4 leads

RAV 4, AN ENTRY OF Pampanga cocker Dodie Villarubio, sets out as the outstanding favorite in today's third leg of the Pasay Cockpit Cockers Association 4-cock derby at Pasay City Cockpit. The 62- fight event is supported by Sagupaan Complexor 3000. Villarubio's entry won the first two legs of the PCCA series to lead the Cocker of the Year race with eight points. Among those with six points each are Pol Estrellado (PE Sta. Cruz) and Ric de Guzman (Coffe King).

4-cocker on

AN EXPLOSIVE GATHering of cocker-sportsmen from Metro Manila and nearby provinces happens today via the Bakbakan Sa DMCA 4-cock derby at Del Monte Cockpit Arena, Brgy. Potrero, Malabon. The derby will start at 4 p.m., said hosts Edwin Santos and lawyer Ed Serapio. Among the favored bets are Top Eagle entry of lawyer Ferdie Topacio and ACS Builders of Gov. Arman Sanchez. For details, contact 361-2773

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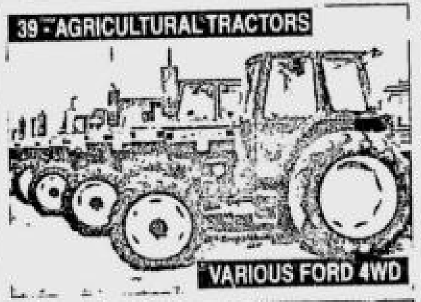

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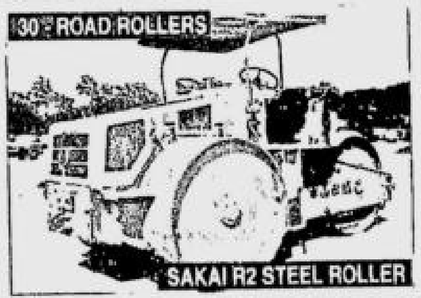

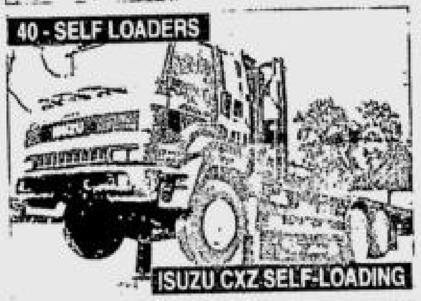

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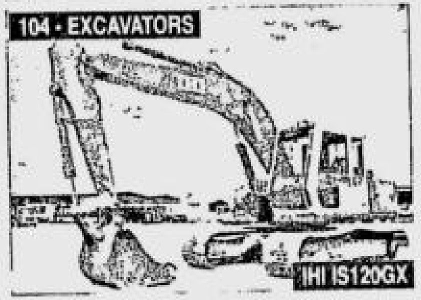

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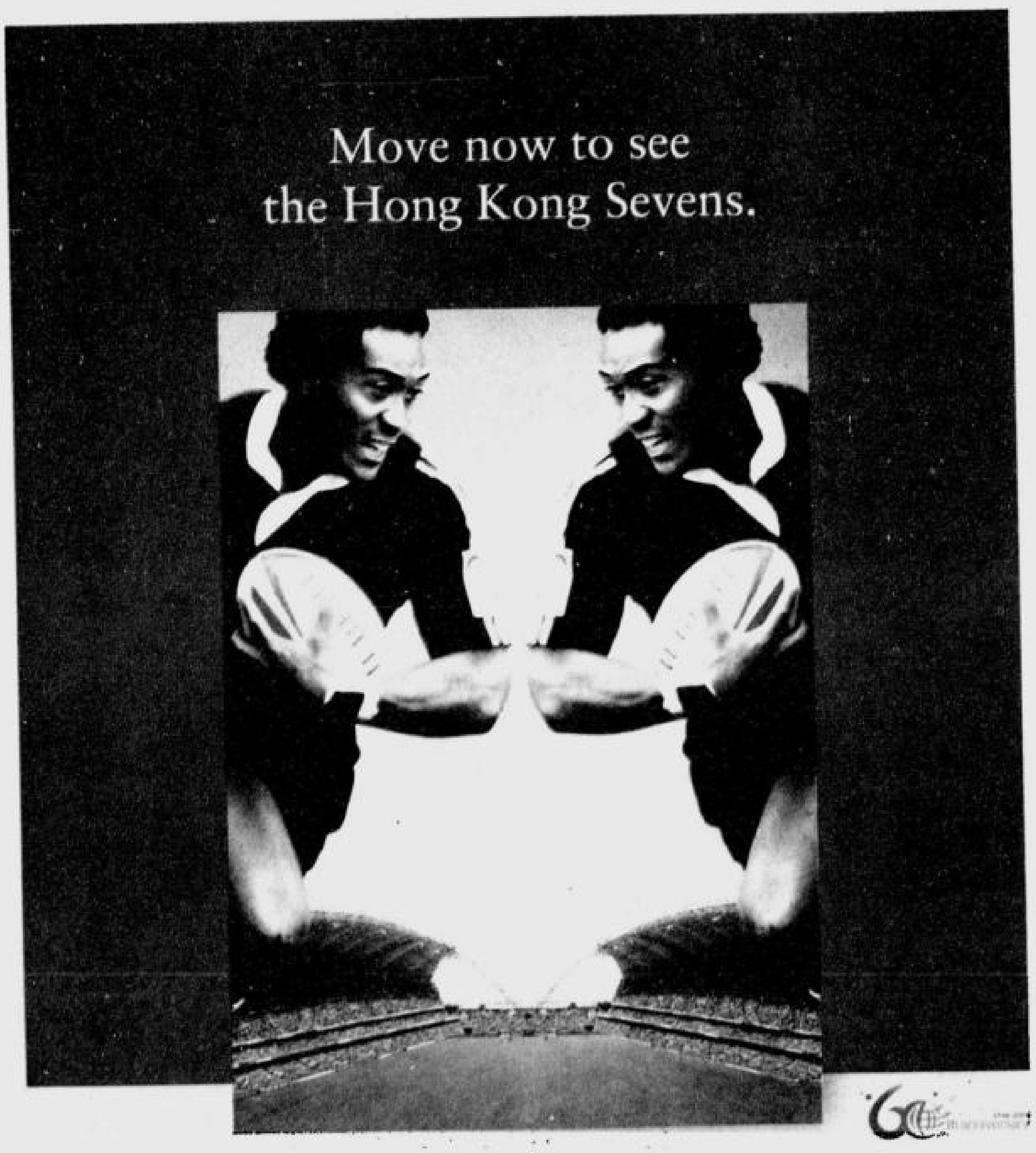
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Editor Emmie G. Velarde

PIA CLEMENTE (first row, circled) joined fellow Oscar bets Charlize Theron, Reese Witherspoon, George Clooney and Joaquin Phoenix, among others, at the nominees lunch: "It was such an honor," she says.

PHOTO COURTESY OF AMPAS

Pinay joins Oscar bets' lunch

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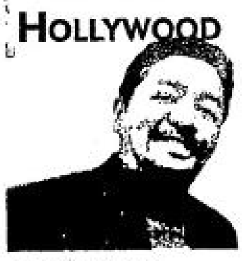

Ruben V. Nepales

LOS ANGELES—"WITH GEORGE Clooney, Joaquin Phoenix and Matt Dillon just a few feet away, I felt I was about to have too much dessert," gushed Pia Clemente, the first Fil-Am woman Oscar nominee, when we asked her about the menu at last Monday's annual Academy Awards nominees luncheon.

Pia, as producer, and Rob Pearlstein, as director—both nominated in the Best Live Action Short Film category for "Our Time Is Up"—and more than 100 fellow nominees showed up the Beverly Hilton Hotel in Beverly Hills for the traditional gathering of Oscar contenders. Hosting this luncheon (for the 25th time this year), the Academy encourages a relaxed, informal atmosphere.

Talents who attend the star-studded event always single out the "fun" quotient, a welcome break from Oscar campaigning and definitely a departure from the formal, tension-filled awards show. This year, the show is scheduled on March 5. Pia enjoyed spotting respected behind-the-camera folks, as well as the acclaimed actors and actresses, around her.

In the mix were directors Steven Spielberg and Tim Burton, veteran composer John Williams (record holder in the music category with 45 nominations!) and 15 of the 20 contenders in the acting race such as Clooney, Phoenix and Dillon plus Jake Gyllenhaal, Charlize Theron, couple Heath Ledger and Michelle Williams, William Hurt (taking the casual theme to heart and showing up in sweater and jeans), Terrence Howard, Felicity Huffman, Keira Knightley, Reese Witherspoon and Philip Seymour Hoffman.

The lunch at the ballroom, scene of last month's Golden Globe Awards, traditionally culminates in a group picture shot of the "Academy Awards Class of 2005" (not 2006, since these are nods for 2005 performances and achievements). Pia said that the positions in the class picture are spontaneous and not arranged according to any criteria. How spontaneous? Keira Knightley, Terrence Howard and Joaquin Phoenix stood way in the back while Pia, thanking her petite size, ended near the center, front row (good move, Pia but you blinked!).

Paul Giamatti, Rachel Weisz and Ang Lee missed the one important free lunch in their lives. The snowstorm in New York (imagine a snowed-over Central Park) reportedly led to the cancellation of their LA-bound flights.

Unlike the Big Day in March, the noontime revelry makes winners out of all the nominees. Everyone received the all-important certificate of nomination, a nominee sweatshirt and an Oscar poster.

Pia replied via e-mail to my questions about her power lunch. At the end of her e-mail, she wrote: "The first [story about her nomination] came out [on the day of] our town fiesta in Sta. Maria [Bulacan, her home province]! You helped make my family back home so proud! Thank you for that." Hmm, will Sta. Maria declare March 5 as Oscar Day in honor of this daughter?

Before the luncheon, what were your thoughts?

I was very nervous. I didn't know what to expect. I had been told that the luncheon is one of the most special events because all the nominees are together as equals in one room.

Tell us about the luncheon itself.

It was very exciting. Seating was random, all the categories were mixed up… so I met new and interesting people. I was honored to have as tablemates Arthur Hiller, a former president of the academy and the legendary director of "Love Story"; Robert Elswit, director of photography for "Good Night, and Good Luck" who is an AFI (American Film Institute) alum like myself; and Bennett Miller, director of "Capote."

Mr. Hiller advised me to enjoy every moment of the days ahead. Our table was located at the very front, sandwiched by one with Joaquin Phoenix at the front and another behind with George Clooney (he's better-looking in person!). George came to our table to greet Mr. Hiller and ladies, he's even better up close! Across the way was a table with Matt Dillon. It was amazing!

Each nominee receives a certificate. It felt like graduation, but with superstars!

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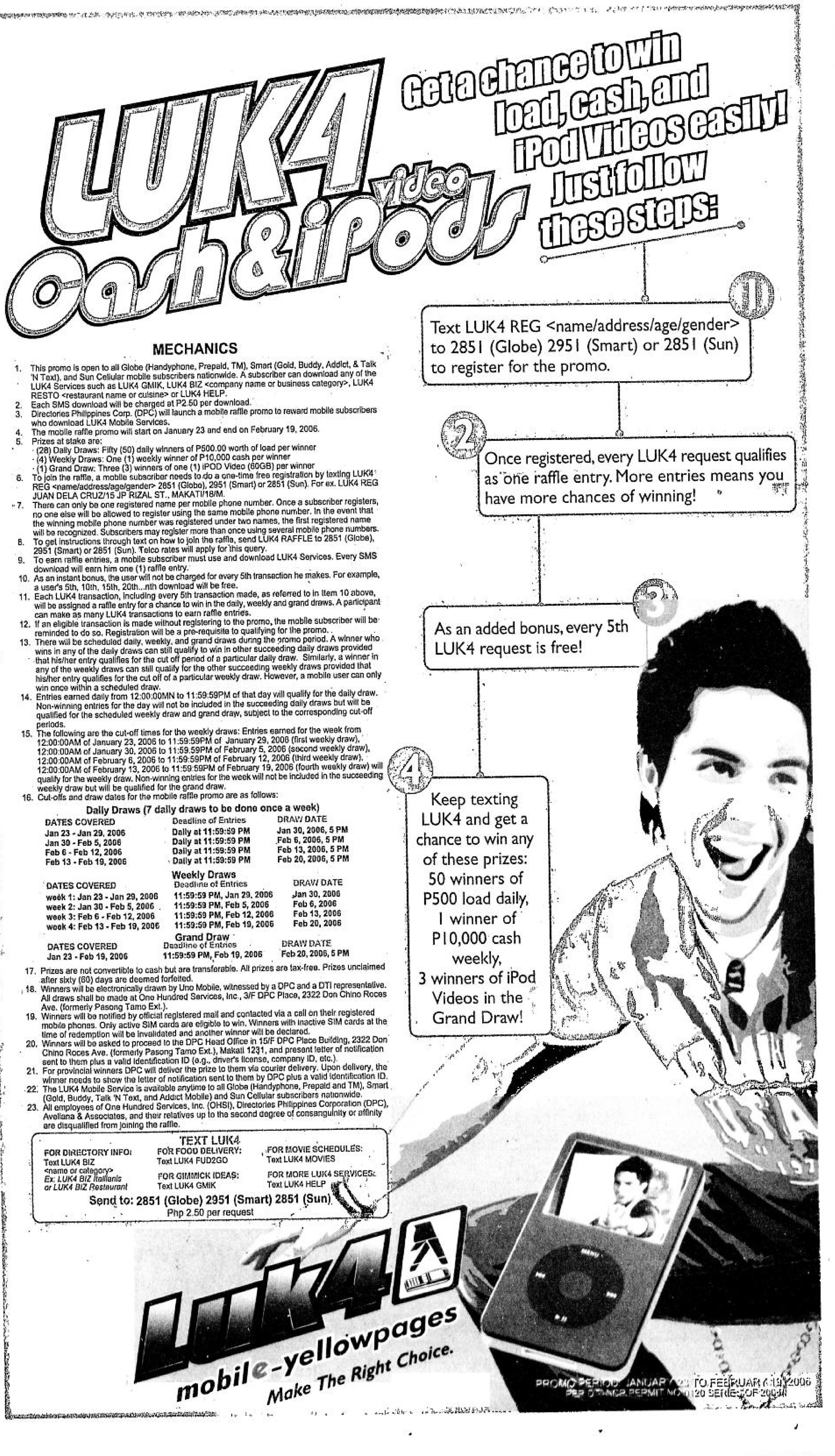
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3. Directories Philippines Corp. (DPC) will launch a mobile raffle promo to reward mobile subscribers who download LUK4 Mobile Services.
4. The mobile raffle promo will start on January 23 and end on February 19, 2006.
5. Prizes at stake are:
   - (28) Daily Draws: Fifty (50) daily winners of P500.00 worth of load per winner
   - (4) Weekly Draws: One (1) weekly winner of P10,000 cash per winner
   - (1) Grand Draw: Three (3) winners of one (1) iPOD Video (60GB) per winner
6. To join the raffle, a mobile subscriber needs to do a one-time free registration by texting LUK4 REG <name/address/age/gender> 2851 (Globe), 2951 (Smart) or 2851 (Sun). For ex. LUK4 REG JUAN DELA CRUZ/15 JP RIZAL ST., MAKATI/18/M.
7. There can only be one registered name per mobile phone number. Once a subscriber registers, no one else will be allowed to register using the same mobile phone number. In the event that the winning mobile phone number was registered under two names, the first registered name will be recognized. Subscribers may register more than once using several mobile phone numbers.
8. To get instructions through text on how to join the raffle, send LUK4 RAFFLE to 2851 (Globe), 2951 (Smart) or 2851 (Sun). Telco rates will apply for this query.
9. To earn raffle entries, a mobile subscriber must use and download LUK4 Services. Every SMS download will earn him one (1) raffle entry.
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11. Each LUK4 transaction, including every 5th transaction made, as referred to in Item 10 above, will be assigned a raffle entry for a chance to win in the daily, weekly and grand draws. A participant can make as many LUK4 transactions to earn raffle entries.
12. If an eligible transaction is made without registering to the promo, the mobile subscriber will be reminded to do so. Registration will be a pre-requisite to qualifying for the promo.
13. There will be scheduled daily, weekly, and grand draws during the promo period. A winner who wins in any of the daily draws can still qualify to win in other succeeding daily draws provided that his/her entry qualifies for the cut off period of a particular daily draw. Similarly, a winner in any of the weekly draws can still qualify for the other succeeding weekly draws provided that his/her entry qualifies for the cut off of a particular weekly draw. However, a mobile user can only win once within a scheduled draw.
14. Entries earned daily from 12:00:00MN to 11:59:59PM of that day will qualify for the daily draw. Non-winning entries for the day will not be included in the succeeding daily draws but will be qualified for the scheduled weekly draw and grand draw, subject to the corresponding cut-off periods.
15. The following are the cut-off times for the weekly draws: Entries earned for the week from 12:00:00AM of January 23, 2006 to 11:59:59PM of January 29, 2006 (first weekly draw), 12:00:00AM of January 30, 2006 to 11:59:59PM of February 5, 2006 (second weekly draw), 12:00:00AM of February 6, 2006 to 11:59:59PM of February 12, 2006 (third weekly draw), 12:00:00AM of February 13, 2006 to 11:59:59PM of February 19, 2006 (fourth weekly draw) will qualify for the weekly draw. Non-winning entries for the week will not be included in the succeeding weekly draw but will be qualified for the grand draw.
16. Cut-offs and draw dates for the mobile raffle promo are as follows:

Daily Draws (7 daily draws to be done once a week)

DATES COVERED	Deadline of Entries	DRAW DATE
Jan 23 - Jan 29, 2006	Daily at 11:59:59 PM	Jan 30, 2006, 5 PM
Jan 30 - Feb 5, 2006	Daily at 11:59:59 PM	Feb 6, 2006, 5 PM
Feb 6 - Feb 12, 2006	Daily at 11:59:59 PM	Feb 13, 2006, 5 PM
Feb 13 - Feb 19, 2006	Daily at 11:59:59 PM	Feb 20, 2006, 5 PM

Weekly Draws

DATES COVERED	Deadline of Entries	DRAW DATE
week 1: Jan 23 - Jan 29, 2006	11:59:59 PM, Jan 29, 2006	Jan 30, 2006
week 2: Jan 30 - Feb 5, 2006	11:59:59 PM, Feb 5, 2006	Feb 6, 2006
week 3: Feb 6 - Feb 12, 2006	11:59:59 PM, Feb 12, 2006	Feb 13, 2006
week 4: Feb 13 - Feb 19, 2006	11:59:59 PM, Feb 19, 2006	Feb 20, 2006

Grand Draw

DATES COVERED	Deadline of Entries	DRAW DATE
Jan 23 - Feb 19, 2006	11:59:59 PM, Feb 19, 2006	Feb 20, 2006, 5 PM

17. Prizes are not convertible to cash but are transferable. All prizes are tax-free. Prizes unclaimed after sixty (60) days are deemed forfeited.
18. Winners will be electronically drawn by Uno Mobile, witnessed by a DPC and a DTI representative. All draws shall be made at One Hundred Services, Inc., 3/F DPC Place, 2322 Don Chino Roces Ave. (formerly Pasong Tamo Ext.).
19. Winners will be notified by official registered mail and contacted via a call on their registered mobile phones. Only active SIM cards are eligible to win. Winners with inactive SIM cards at the time of redemption will be invalidated and another winner will be declared.
20. Winners will be asked to proceed to the DPC Head Office in 15/F DPC Place Building, 2322 Don Chino Roces Ave. (formerly Pasong Tamo Ext.), Makati 1231, and present letter of notification sent to them plus a valid identification ID (e.g., driver's license, company ID, etc.).
21. For provincial winners DPC will deliver the prize to them via courier delivery. Upon delivery, the winner needs to show the letter of notification sent to them by DPC plus a valid identification ID.
22. The LUK4 Mobile Service is available anytime to all Globe (Handyphone, Prepaid and TM), Smart (Gold, Buddy, Talk 'N Text, and Addict Mobile) and Sun Cellular subscribers nationwide.
23. All employees of One Hundred Services, Inc. (OHSI), Directories Philippines Corporation (DPC), Avellana & Associates, and their relatives up to the second degree of consanguinity or affinity are disqualified from joining the raffle.

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FOR MOVIE SCHEDULES: Text LUK4 MOVIES
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PROMO PERIOD: JANUARY 23 TO FEBRUARY 19, 2006
PER DTI-NCR PERMIT NO. [illegible]120 SERIES OF 2006

Jeremy Marquez says dad Joey is smart and 'deep'

DOLLYWOOD

Dolly Ann Carvajal

LIKE ANY SON OF A FAMOUS PERSONALITY, **Jeremy Marquez** wants to break out of the shadow of his dad, **Joey Marquez**. But this doesn't mean he's not proud of him. "Front *lang ng* dad *ko* his being *kenkoy* and all. He's actually very smart and witty—(deep)," Jeremy says.

Jeremy is more of the serious type. "I'm usually silent but I'm always listening. You don't know what to expect when you're with me." Does he like women as much as his dad does? "'*Di pa ako umaamin na babaero, ha?*" Jeremy said, laughing!

He's leaving the comedy to his dad and would rather become a character actor. "When they offered me the role of a drug addict who became a *taong grasa* in [GMA 7's drama series] 'Magpakailanman,' I grabbed it," he said. "Hope the viewers and critics notice."

For sure, Jeremy put his soulful eyes to good use in the dramatic scenes. He teamed up with his ladylove, **Alessandra de Rossi**, in the episode aired last night.

Trouble in paradise

SPEAKING of Joey, my most sought-after "*kumpare*"... I hear that trouble's brewing in paradise between him and his current squeeze, **Alicia Mayer**? Is it true that he didn't show up for the taping of "Lagot Ka... Isusumbong Kita!" (where Alicia is also a mainstay) because of a lovers' quarrel?

A third party? That's nothing new in Joey's vocabulary! Any girl who wants to be with him for the long haul should learn to grin and bear it, and assure herself that an "extra-curricular" is good only until it lusts (hahaha)...

I've known Joey for ages. Once I texted him reminiscing about the good old days. He texted back, "How can I forget?" With his legendary charms, he will always be good as gold.

"Sam fest"

A FUNNY thing happened at "Lovea-palooza." Screaming fans ran to see the stars of "Close to You"—**Bea Alonzo**, **John Lloyd Cruz** and **Sam Milby**—who were guests at the kiss fest. At first, the bodyguards watched over John Lloyd. But when Sam came out, the crowd became uncontrollable. The security left John's side and rushed to Sam's. Only one fan was left asking for John's autograph while Sam was mobbed. I'm sure John didn't mind letting newcomer Sam shine.

Head over heels

SOMEONE privy to singer **Aliya Parcs'** love life told me that she's worried about how crazy Aliya is about **Vince** of " South Border." She sighs, "Aliya is spending too much on Vince. He has money *naman*. She gave his son a toy motor car, his daughter a Barbie dreamhouse and Vince an iPod! No wonder she's broke!" Oh, well... who are we to question the workings of a heart?

Fun show

I IMMENSELY enjoyed the Valentine concert of **Ogie Alcasid** and **Regine Velasquez**, "Foreverafter," at the Big Dome. After doing countless shows together, they still manage to come up with something new and fresh each time. Ogie and Regine have transcended the malicious intrigue about them; they even joked about it in their spiels. "Foreverafter" had a storybook theme, complete with fairies and forest creatures. The repertoire was a fine selection. **Rico Puno** and **Ai-Ai de las Alas** made the concert all the more delightful. Rico hasn't lost his touch. Ai-Ai is unbeatable when it comes to ad libs. As for Ogie and Regine, we will be listening to their music through the years, ever after.

Jobs TV

JOBS TV is all about jobs, jobs, and more jobs! Career paths, employment options, professional tips, lucrative occupations—viewers get all these every week, packed inside a 30-minute briefcase. It's also a prime source of inside information on the country's hottest industry today, customer care.

Catch it Saturdays at 10 a.m., only on Studio 23, hosted by **Ria Tanjuatco-Trillo.**

Post-V show

"I LOVE You, You're Perfect, Now Change!" one of the longest running off-Broadway musicals, is Repertory Philippines' post-Valentine offering at Onstage in Greenbelt 1. It opens today, with shows on Fridays and Saturdays at 8 p.m. and Sundays at 3:30 pm.

The musical is a series of hilarious musical vignettes that takes the audience through dating, courtship, marriage, parenting and finally widowhood via the music of the 1960s, '70s and '80s. Call 887-0710 or 891-9999.

E-mail wateringholeshangrila@yahoo.com

SHANG CINEPLEX

① PINK PANTHER
MTRCB: GP
12:40, 3:00, 5:20, 7:40, 10:00

② AEON FLUX
MTRCB R-13
12.00, 2:30, 5:00, 7:30, 10 00

③ EIGA SAI 2006
2.00, 5.00, 8.00

④ BROKEBACK MOUNTAIN
MTRCB R-18
1:00, 3:40, 6:20, 9:00

PREMIERE THEATRE GOAL
MTRCB GP 12 10, 2 35, 5 05, 7 30, 10 00
Movies and schedules are subject to change without prior notice

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See posters for details
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Permit No. A3 0139, Series of 2006

Call 633-7851, loc. 171 or 633-2227
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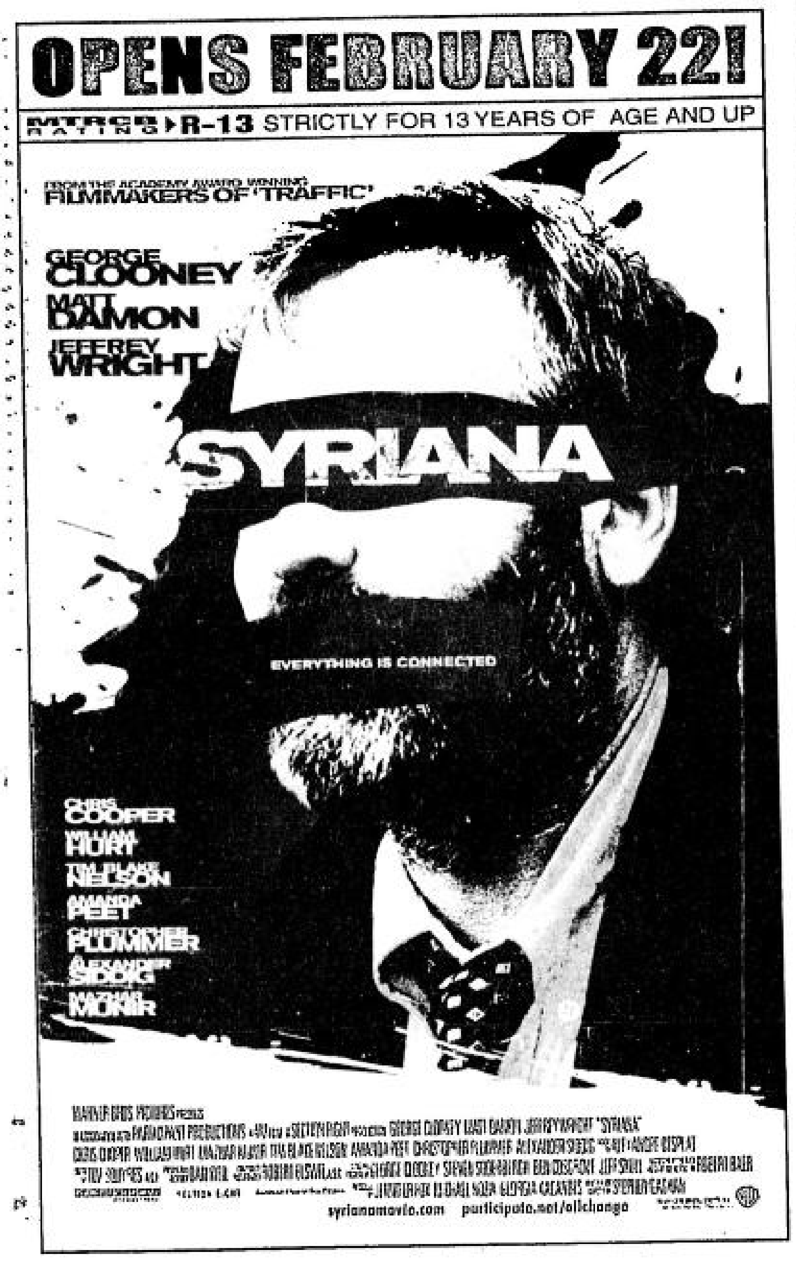
Shangri-La Plaza



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JEFFREY WRIGHT
SYRIANA
EVERYTHING IS CONNECTED
CHRIS COOPER
WILLIAM HURT
TIM BLAKE NELSON
AMANDA PEET
CHRISTOPHER PLUMMER
ALEXANDER SIDDIG
MAZHAR MUNIR
syrianamovie.com participate.net/oilchange

NOW SHOWING
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PAUL BETTANY
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THAN A MAN WITH EVERYTHING TO LOSE.
FIREWALL

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CLOSE TO YOU 12 30 / 2:50 / 5:10 / 7:30 / 9:50	BROKEBACK MOUNTAIN 1:20 / 4:10 / 7:00 / 9:50	PINK PANTHER 1:05 / 3:15 / 5:25 / 7:35 / 9:45	GLOBE PLATINUM CINEMA
THE NEW WORLD 12:30 / 3:20	FIREWALL 12:30 / 2:50 / 5:10 / 7:30 / 9:50	AEON FLUX 1:00 / 3:10 / 5:20 / 7:30 / 9:40	BROKEBACK MOUNTAIN 12:40 / 3:30 / 6:20 / 9:10
I WILL ALWAYS LOVE YOU 12:10 / 2:35 / 5:00 / 7:25 / 9:50	GOAL 12:10 / 2:35 / 5:00 / 7:25 / 9:50 MUNICH 6:00 / 9:00	FUN WITH DICK & JANE 1:00 / 3:10 / 5:20 / 7:30 / 9:40	ONLY P120 ADMISSION GLOBE PLATINUM P249-P299

ALI MALL CINEMAS

1	CLOSE TO YOU 12:00 R3 / 1:40 / 4:00 / 6:20 / 8:40	GOAL 12:00 R4 / 1:25 / 3:50 / 6:15 / 8:40	BROKEBACK MOUNTAIN 12:10 R3 / 2:20 / 5:15 / 8:05
4	PINK PANTHER 12:00 / 2:10 / 4:20 / 6:30 / 8:40	I WILL ALWAYS LOVE YOU 12.15 R4 / 1:20 / 3:45 / 6:10 / 8:35	DOLBY DIGITAL dts SDDS

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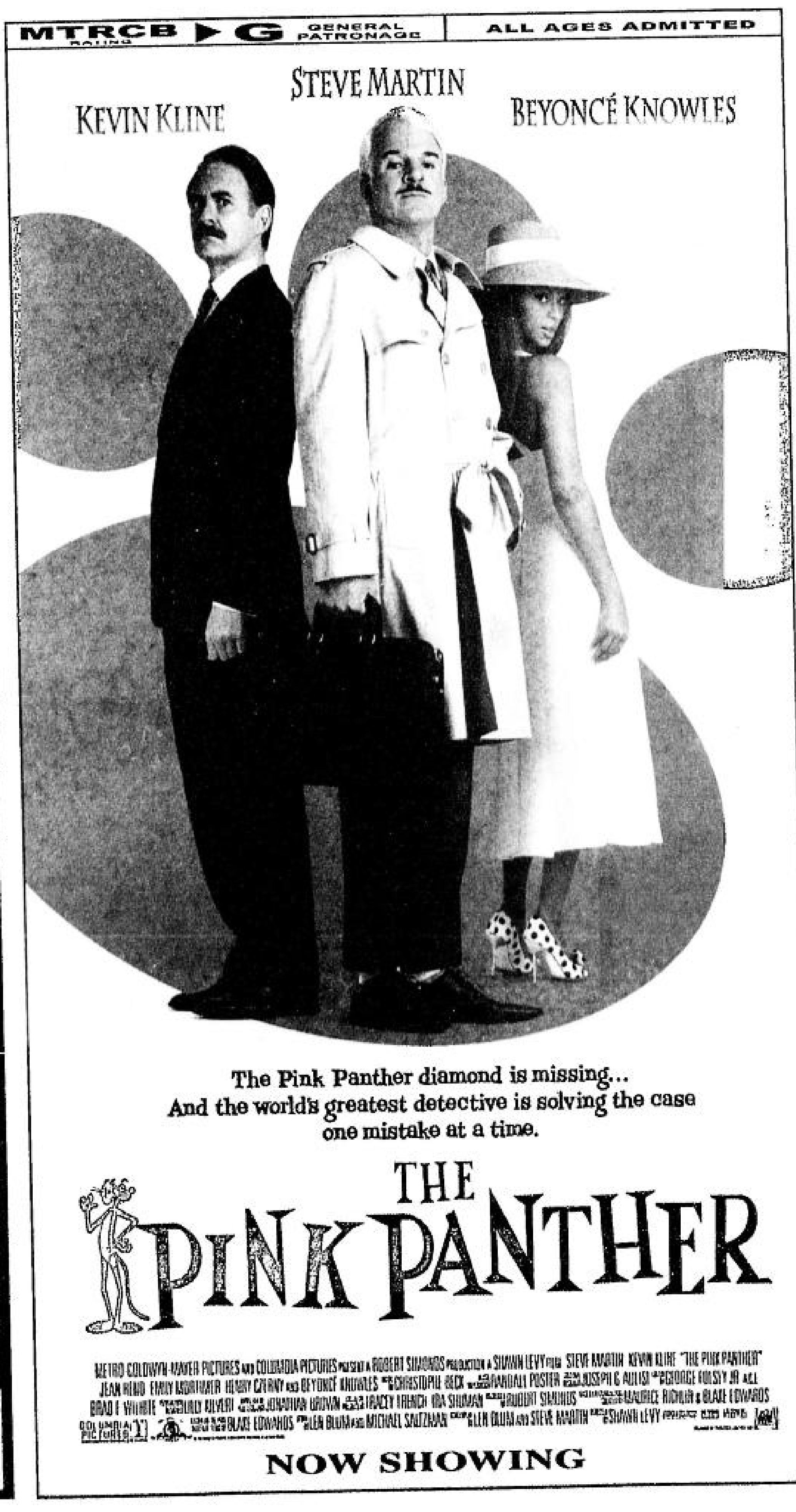
ARANETA COLISEUM

PBA FIESTA CONFERENCE FEB.17 Friday. 7:30 pm PUREFOODS vs RED BULL	WWE RAW LIVE TOUR FEB.24 FRI 6 pm & FEB. 25 SAT 4 pm



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My Funny Valentine!

The Comedy of REX NAVARRETE

SM NORTH EDSA CINEMA 1

February 24, 2006, 8:00 PM

Southmall Cinema 3 February 25

ERRATUM: We would like to apologize for the inconvenience. To better serve you we are moving the Feb 17 North Edsa show to Feb 24 and Feb. 18 Southmall show to Feb. 25. This is to accommodate more people who would like to watch Rex Navarrete. Those who bought the ticket to the Feb 17 and 18 shows will be given FREE popcorn upon presentation of his/her ticket on Feb 24 and 25. Thank you very much for your understanding.

Free LOWER BOX TICKET for every purchase of 1(one) Rex CD + med. Popcorn & Drink! P 500.00

Free UPPER BOX TICKET for every purchase of 1 (one) med. Popcorn & Drink for P 300.00

Available at the following SM Cinema Snackbars:
North Edsa, andSouthmall

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BRIAN VILORIA "THE HAWAIIAN PUNCH" WBC LIGHT FLYWEIGHT CHAMPION VS **JOSE AGUIRRE** "EL JAGUAR"

February 19, Sunday
8:00 a.m.

LIVE VIA SATELLITE
Las Vegas USA

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You may also buy tickets using your cell phone. Just text ADVANCE and send to 286. For Smart subscribers only

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THE PODIUM 633-8976

PINK PANTHER
02:15FS / 02:45 MF / 04:50 / 06:55
08:30 LFS / 09:00 LMF / 10:30 END

FIREWALL
02:15FS / 02:45 MF / 04:50 / 06:55
08:30 LFS / 09:00 LMF / 10:35 END

MEGAMALL

FIREWALL
10:40 FS / 11:00 MF / 01:10 / 03:20 / 05:30
07:40 / 09:30 LFS / 09:50 LMF / 11:40 END

CEBU (032) 231-3076

RESERVED

RESERVED

PINK PANTHER
11:20 FS / 11:30 MF / 01:30 / 03:30 / 05:30
07:30 / 09:10 LFS / 09:30 LMF / 11:10 END

movietime

METRO MANILA

SM MEGAMALL
1 FIREWALL
2 GOAL
3 AEON FLUX
4 CLOSE TO YOU
5 FUN WITH DICK AND JANE
6 PINK PANTHER
7 UNDERWORLD 2
8 I WILL ALWAYS LOVE YOU
9 CLOSE TO YOU
10 NEW WORLD
11 SAW 2
12 MUNICH

SM CITY STA. MESA
1 AEON FLUX
2 GOAL
3 PINK PANTHER
4 I WILL ALWAYS LOVE YOU
5 CLOSE TO YOU
6 FUN WITH DICK AND JANE
7 FIREWALL
8 UNDERWORLD 2
9 NEW WORLD
10 SAW 2

SM CITY BICUTAN
1 AEON FLUX
2 CLOSE TO YOU
3 PINK PANTHER
4 I WILL ALWAYS LOVE YOU

SM SUPERCENTER VALENZUELA
1 CLOSE TO YOU
2 I WILL ALWAYS LOVE YOU
3 MUNICH
4 NEW WORLD

SM CITY FAIRVIEW
1 NEW WORLD
2 SAW 2
3 FIREWALL
4 CLOSE TO YOU
5 GOAL
6 I WILL ALWAYS LOVE YOU
7 AEON FLUX
8 PINK PANTHER
9 CLOSE TO YOU
10 FUN WITH DICK AND JANE
11 UNDERWORLD 2
12 MUNICH

SM CITY SOUTHMALL
1 AEON FLUX
2 I WILL ALWAYS LOVE YOU
3 PINK PANTHER
4 CLOSE TO YOU
5 FIREWALL
6 GOAL
7 FUN WITH DICK AND JANE
8 NEW WORLD
9 SAW 2
10 RESERVED

SM SUPERCENTER SUCAT
1 I WILL ALWAYS LOVE YOU
2 AEON FLUX
3 CLOSE TO YOU
4 PINK PANTHER

SM CITY NORTH EDSA
1 AEON FLUX
2 CLOSE TO YOU
3 I WILL ALWAYS LOVE YOU
4 NEW WORLD
5 GOAL
6 FUN WITH DICK AND JANE
7 PINK PANTHER
8 FIREWALL

SM CITY MANILA
1 GOAL
2 NEW WORLD
3 SAW 2
4 AEON FLUX
5 PINK PANTHER
6 FIREWALL
7 CLOSE TO YOU
8 BLOODRAYNE
9 CLOSE TO YOU
10 FUN WITH DICK AND JANE
11 UNDERWORLD 2
12 I WILL ALWAYS LOVE YOU

SM CITY SAN LAZARO
1 AEON FLUX
2 GOAL
3 PINK PANTHER
4 FUN WITH DICK AND JANE
5 CLOSE TO YOU
5 I WILL ALWAYS LOVE YOU

LUZON

SM CITY PAMPANGA
1 PINK PANTHER
2 MUNICH
3 UNDERWORLD 2
4 CLOSE TO YOU
5 CLOSE TO YOU
5 I WILL ALWAYS LOVE YOU

SM CITY BAGUIO
1 PINK PANTHER
2 GOAL
3 UNDERWORLD 2
4 CLOSE TO YOU

SM SUPERCENTER MOLINO
1 SAW 2
2 NEW WORLD
3 CLOSE TO YOU
4 I WILL ALWAYS LOVE YOU

SM CITY BACOOR
1 GOAL
2 CLOSE TO YOU
3 PINK PANTHER
4 I WILL ALWAYS LOVE YOU
5 FIREWALL
6 CLOSE TO YOU
7 NEW WORLD
8 MUNICH

SM CITY MARILAO
1 BLOODRAYNE
2 CLOSE TO YOU
3 I WILL ALWAYS LOVE YOU
4 CHEAPER BY THE DOZEN 2

SM CITY DASMARIÑAS
1 UNDERWORLD 2
2 I WILL ALWAYS LOVE YOU
3 CLOSE TO YOU
PINK PANTHER
4

SM CITY LUCENA
1 BLOODRAYNE
2 CLOSE TO YOU
3 DERAILED
4 I WILL ALWAYS LOVE YOU

SM CITY BATANGAS
1 UNDERWORLD 2
2 I WILL ALWAYS LOVE YOU
3 CLOSE TO YOU
4 THE MAID

VISAYAS AND MINDANAO

SM CITY CEBU
1 RESERVED
2 RESERVED
3 PINK PANTHER
4 MUNICH
5 I WILL ALWAYS LOVE YOU
6 BLOODRAYNE
7 CLOSE TO YOU
8 FUN WITH DICK AND JANE

SM CITY ILOILO
1 SAW 2
2 RESERVED
3 CLOSE TO YOU
4 PINK PANTHER
5 I WILL ALWAYS LOVE YOU
6 UNDERWORLD 2
7 RESERVED
8 FUN WITH DICK AND JANE

SM CITY DAVAO
1 SAW 2
2 PINK PANTHER
3 CLOSE TO YOU
4 FUN WITH DICK AND JANE
5 I WILL ALWAYS LOVE YOU
6 UNDERWORLD 2

SM CITY CAGAYAN DE ORO
1 UNDERWORLD 2
2 HALF LIGHT
3 CLOSE TO YOU
4 RUMOR HAS IT

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4.) The Chairman of the Council of Scientists
5.) The creator of "Aeon Flux" animated series
6.) The Captain of the Guard
7.) The leader of the rebellion
8.) The one responsible for the supervision of the Bregnan military

Submit your answers together with your particulars to the nearest SM Cinema branch where "Aeon Flux" is showing

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MTRCB Rating: R-13

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AYALA CINEMAS   THX

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Movie schedules may change without prior notice. For verification call 729 7777

G1 GLORIETTA 1	1 PINK PANTHER	2 CLOSE TO YOU	3 FIREWALL	4 I WILL ALWAYS LOVE YOU
G4 GLORIETTA 4	1 CLOSE TO YOU	2 AEON FLUX	3 THX BROKEBACK MOUNTAIN GUARANTEED SEATS	
	4 FIREWALL	5 FUN W/ DICK & JANE	6 PINK PANTHER	7 GOAL
GB1 GREENBELT 1	1 BROKEBACK MOUNTAIN	2 PINK PANTHER		
GB3 GREENBELT 3	1 THX BROKEBACK MOUNTAIN GUARANTEED SEATS	2 THX PINK PANTHER GUARANTEED SEATS		
	3 AEON FLUX GUARANTEED SEATS	4 FIREWALL GUARANTEED SEATS	5 MUNICH GUARANTEED SEATS	
ATC ALABANG TOWN CENTER	1 THX PINK PANTHER	2 BROKEBACK MOUNTAIN		
	3 GOAL	4 CLOSE TO YOU	5 AEON FLUX	
ACC AYALA CENTER CEBU	1 PINK PANTHER	2 BROKEBACK MOUNTAIN	3 CLOSE TO YOU	4 MUNICH

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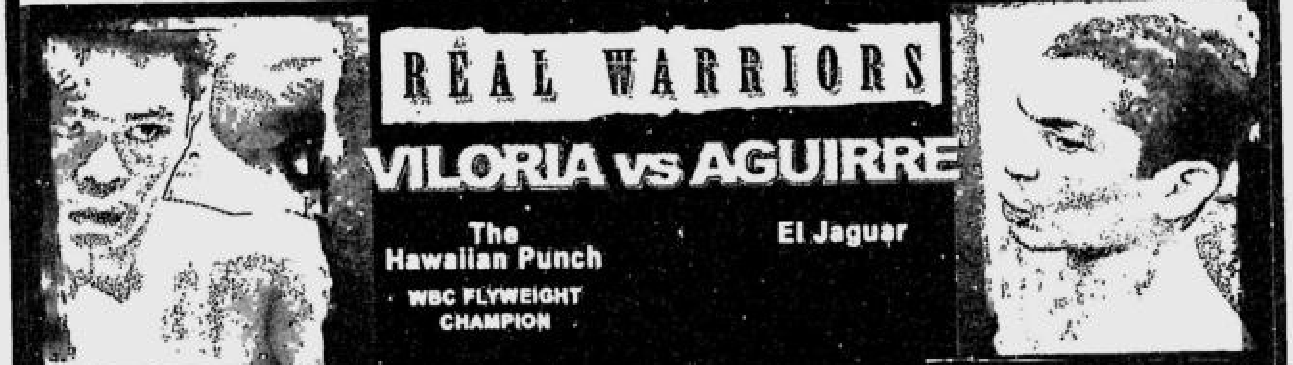

AYALA CINEMAS

Catch Brian "the Hawaiian Punch" Viloria take it against the former Champ Jose Antonio "El Jaguar" Aguirre for his first title defense

FEBRUARY 19, SUNDAY 8:00 AM
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① CLOSE TO YOU
② GOAL
③ AEON FLUX
④ PINK PANTHER
⑤ BROKEBACK MOUNTAIN

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Metro Point Mall
Feb. 25, Saturday, 4pm

Market! Market!
Feb. 26, Sunday, 4pm

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GALLERIA 632-9116

1 MUNICH • THX
12:50 4:00 7:15 10:00
6 BROKEBACK MOUNTAIN
1:30 4:20 7:10 10:00
2 CLOSE TO YOU
12:20 2:45 5:10 7:35 10:00
7 FIREWALL
12:00 2:30 5:00 7:30 10:00
3 GOAL
12:00 2:30 5:00 7:30 10:00
8 I WILL ALWAYS LOVE YOU
12:00 2:30 5:00 7:30 10:00
4 AEON FLUX
11:25 1:35 3:45 5:55 6:05 10:00
9 NEW WORLD
1:45 4:30 7:15 10:00
5 PINK PANTHER
11:00 1:10 3:20 5:30 7:40 9:50
10 FUN with DICK and JANE
1:10 3:20 5:30 7:40 9:50

ERMITA 536-7809 to 12

1 CLOSE TO YOU 11:30 1:35 3:40 5:45 7:50 10:00
2 FUN with DICK and JANE 12:00 2:20
NEW WORLD 4:45 7:15 9:50
5 BROKEBACK MOUNTAIN
12:00 2:30 5:00 7:30 10:00
3 GOAL
12:30 2:50 5:10 7:30 9:50
6 PINK PANTHER
12:30 2:50 5:10 7:30 10:00
4 AEON FLUX
12:20 2:20 4:20 6:20 8:20 10:00
7 I WILL ALWAYS LOVE YOU
12:30 2:50 5:10 7:30 10:00

METRO EAST 682-8193 • 682-8199

1 FUN with DICK and JANE
12:50 2:50 4:50 6:50 9:00
5 BROKEBACK MOUNTAIN
12:55 3:10 6:05 9:00
2 CLOSE TO YOU
11:15 1:45 4:15 6:45 9:15
6 FIREWALL
12:40 2:45 4:50 6:55 9:00
3 NEW WORLD
12:40 3:20 6:10 9:00
7 PINK PANTHER
11:45 2:05 4:25 6:45 9:05
4 GOAL
11:20 1:40 4:00 6:30 9:00
8 I WILL ALWAYS LOVE YOU
1:20 3:55 6:30 9:05

NOVALICHES 935-3231 / 935-3229-30

1 AEON FLUX
2 GOAL
3 FIREWALL
4 PINK PANTHER
5 I WILL ALWAYS LOVE YOU
6 CLOSE TO YOU
7 FUN with DICK and JANE

CITISQUARE MALABON 288-2575

1 I WILL ALWAYS LOVE YOU
2 CLOSE TO YOU
3 RESERVE
4 RESERVE

PIONEER 687-5378

1 AEON FLUX
2 PINK PANTHER
3 CLOSE TO YOU
4 GOAL

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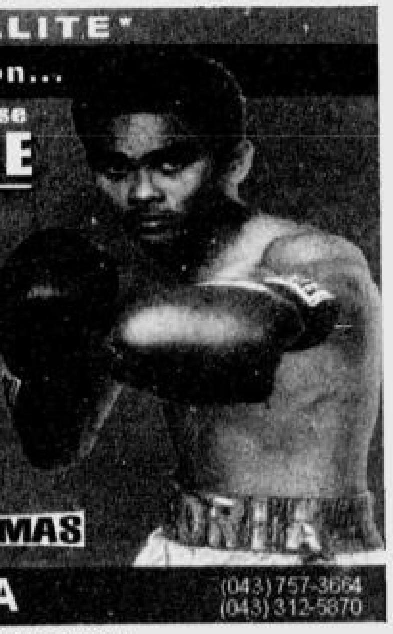

STA. ROSA (049) 837-0907

1 I WILL ALWAYS LOVE YOU
2 SAW 2
3 UNDERWORLD 2
4 PINK PANTHER
5 CLOSE TO YOU

LIPA (043) 757-3664 (043) 312-5870

1 BLOODRAYNE
2 I WILL ALWAYS LOVE YOU
3 WALK THE LINE
4 CLOSE TO YOU
5 SAW 2

DASMARIÑAS [illegible]

1 UNDERWORLD 2
2 MUNICH
3 CLOSE TO YOU
4 I WILL ALWAYS LOVE YOU
5 PINK PANTHER

ANGELES (045) 892-2348

1 UNDERWORLD 2
2 I WILL ALWAYS LOVE YOU
3 CLOSE TO YOU
4 PINK PANTHER

IMUS [illegible]

1 I WILL ALWAYS LOVE YOU
2 MUNICH
3 UNDERWORLD 2
4 PINK PANTHER
5 CLOSE TO YOU
6 GOAL

STARMILLS [illegible]

1 FIREWALL
2 CLOSE TO YOU
3 I WILL ALWAYS LOVE YOU
4 UNDERWORLD 2
5 PINK PANTHER
6 MUNICH

BACOLOD [illegible]

1 BLOODRAYNE
2 PINK PANTHER
3 CLOSE TO YOU
4 FUN with DICK and JANE
5 I WILL ALWAYS LOVE YOU
6 SAW 2

ILOILO (033) 336-8070

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3 CLOSE TO YOU
4 I WILL ALWAYS LOVE YOU
5 BROKEBACK MOUNTAIN
6 SAW 2

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starting
FEBRUARY 22
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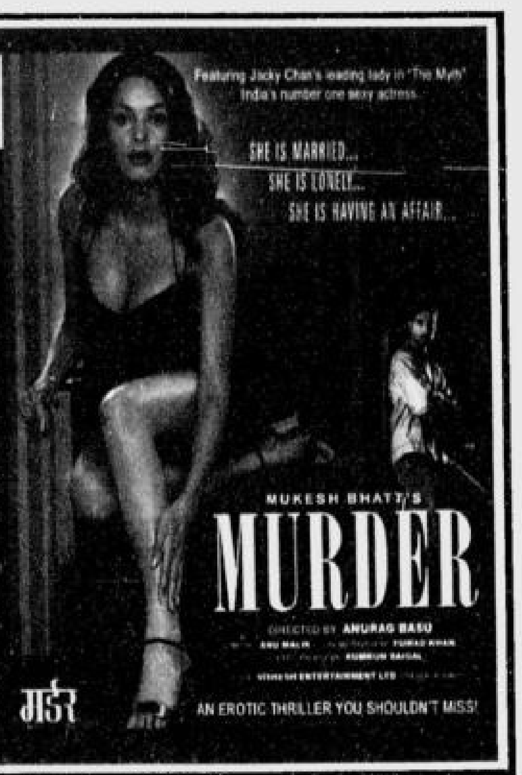
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2 (DOLBY) AEON FLUX R13
3 (DOLBY) EIGA SAI 2006
4 (DOLBY) BROKE BACK MOUNTAIN R18
PREMIERE
(DOLBY) GOAL GP

Filinvest FESTIVAL CINEMA
(Muntinlupa) tel 850.3571 or 72
1 (DDS) MUNICH
2 (SDDS) FUN W/ DICK & JANE
3 (DTS) FIREWALL
4 GOLD (DTS) PINK PANTHER
5 GOLD (DOLBY) BROKE BACK MOUNTAIN
6 GOLD (SDDS) GOAL
7 GOLD (DOLBY) AEON FLUX
8 CLOSE TO YOU
9 CLOSE TO YOU
10 I WILL ALWAYS LOVE YOU

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(Eastwood City Walk 2, Eastwood City E. Rodriguez Jr. Ave (C-5) Quezon City)
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1 (DOLBY) BROKE BACK MOUNTAIN
2 (DOLBY) PINK PANTHER
3 (DOLBY) AEON FLUX
4 (DOLBY) GOAL

CINEMA 2000
Cinema 2000 Waltermart Makati
Waltermart Center, Chino Roces Ave. cor. Antonio Arnaiz Pio del Pilar, Makati City
Tel 816.4214 / 816.4216
1 PINK PANTHER
2 BROKE BACK MOUNTAIN
3 I WILL ALWAYS LOVE YOU
4 CLOSE TO YOU

Blue Wave MARQUINTON
Sumulong Highway cor. Mayor Gil Fernando Street, Sto. Niño, Marikina City tel. 9341927
1 (DOLBY) PINK PANTHER
2 (DOLBY) I WILL ALWAYS LOVE YOU
3 (DOLBY) CLOSE TO YOU
4 (DOLBY) RESERVED

SUPER CINERAMA
Isetann Cinerama Complex Recto
tel 7334228
1 (DOLBY) GOAL
2 AEON FLUX
3 I WILL ALWAYS LOVE YOU
4 CLOSE TO YOU
5 BROKE BACK MOUNTAIN

starmall EDSA SHAW
(Mandaluyong) tel. 7266150
3 THE NEW WORLD
4 (DOLBY DIGITAL EX) CLOSE TO YOU
5 I WILL ALWAYS LOVE YOU

MARKETPLACE
Mandaluyong
tel 533.3851 / 533.3856
1 CLOSE TO YOU
2 I WILL ALWAYS LOVE YOU
3 SAW-2
4 UNDERWORLD-2

Masagana CINEMA
(Pasay) tel 833.3290 / 833.3274
1 I WILL ALWAYS LOVE YOU
2 CLOSE TO YOU
3 SAW-2

metropolis star cinema
www.clickthecity.com.ph
(ALABANG) tel. 8504286, 5433994
1 I WILL ALWAYS LOVE YOU
2 BROKE BACK MOUNTAIN
3 CLOSE TO YOU
4 THE NEW WORLD

Center Mall Cinema
Baguio Center Mall, Magsaysay Avenue
(Baguio City) tel (074)- (4449346)
1 PINK PANTHER
2 CLOSE TO YOU

Jade Cinema
(Angeles City) tel (045) 887.5001 to 03
1 (DOLBY EX) PINK PANTHER
2 I WILL ALWAYS LOVE YOU
3 (DTS EX) CLOSE TO YOU
4 UNDERWORLD-2

THEATRES
NE Pacific Mall Cabanatuan, telephone No (044) 600-3026
1 FUN W/ DICK & JANE
2 CLOSE TO YOU
3 I WILL ALWAYS LOVE YOU

Cine Nepo
(Angeles City) tel (045) 887.0121
1 RESERVED
2 RESERVED
3 (DOLBY) RESERVED
4 (DTS) RESERVED

PACIFIC MALL LUCENA CINEMAGIC
Pacific Mall Lucena Tel (042) 660-6271
I WIL ALWAYS LOVE YOU
CLOSE TO YOU
RESERVED
RESERVED

Cine Nepo
(Dagupan City) tel (075) 515.8489
1 I WILL ALWAYS LOVE YOU
2 CLOSE TO YOU
3 (DOLBY) DERAILED
4 (DTS) WALK THE LINE

Centre Plaza Cinema
(Balanga, Bataan) tel (047) 237.7007
1 I WILL ALWAYS LOVE YOU
2 ZATHURA

CINEMA 2000
Movie Theatres of the New Millenium

Cinema 2000 Waltermart
(Calamba) tel (049) 545.7383
1 I WILL ALWAYS LOVE YOU
2 (DTS) CLOSE TO YOU
3 (DOLBY) UNDERWORLD-2
4 PINK PANTHER

Cinema 2000 Pavilion Mall
(Binan) tel. (049) 4111146
1 I WILL ALWAYS LOVE YOU
2 (DOLBY) UNDERWORLD-2
3 (DTS) PINK PANTHER
4 CLOSE TO YOU

Cinema 2000 Cinemagix
(Urdaneta) tel(075) 568.6771
1 I WILL ALWAYS LOVE YOU
2 CLOSE TO YOU
3 (DOLBY) DERAILED

Cinema 2000 Metrotown
(Tarlac) tel (045) 982.1729
1 I WILL ALWAYS LOVE YOU
2 CLOSE TO YOU
3 (DOLBY) DERAILED
4 (DTS) SAW-2

Cinema 2000 Waltermart
(Plaridel) tel (044) 795.3320
1 UNDERWORLD-2
2 CLOSE TO YOU
3 (DOLBY) I WILL ALWAYS LOVE YOU

Cinema 2000 Waltermart
(Gapan)
1 I WILL ALWAYS LOVE YOU
2 CLOSE TO YOU

Lianas Cinema
(Pasig) tel 640.4748
1 FIREWALL
2 BLOODRAYNE

Lianas Cinema
(Alabang) tel 850.1276
1 (SDDS) GAWI THE NIGHTMARE
2 NANANABIK
3 TUKSO
4 (DTS) PLEASE CALL

Lianas MovieCity
(Calamba) tel (049) 545.7202
1 (DOLBY) PINK PANTHER
2 TUKSO
3 (DTS) CLOSE TO YOU
4 I WILL ALWAYS LOVE YOU
5 UNDERWORLD-2

Fiesta World Mall
(Lipa) tel (043) 981.0790
1 BLOODRAYNE
2 CLOSE TO YOU
3 SAW-2
4 I WILL ALWAYS LOVE YOU

Berma Cinema
(Baclaran) tel 879.2030 / 879.2029
1 SAW-2
2 THE FRUIT IS SWELLING

MOVIES / SCHEDULES / PRICES SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE

Pinay joins Oscar bets' lunch

From page A2-1

Coming in, what was your first impression?

That event is so well-run. As you enter, there are media people and photographers outside and inside the lobby of the Beverly Hilton. Everyone wants to see who's coming in. Entering the banquet hall is a truly amazing feeling. The entrance is lined with Oscar statues… and more photographers. The Academy's current President, Sid Ganis, greeted us individually. It was such an honor to be surrounded by talented peers in the industry.

What were the highlights for you?

Looking around the large banquet hall and feeling so proud of your work and your craft. There was an air of camaraderie and celebration. The Academy does a great job of making everyone feel like equals, including nominees from smaller categories such as mine.

Other memorable moments?

It was a great reunion with Frank Pierson and Robert Rehme again. Both are former presidents of the Academy and instructor/mentors at AFI. When I received my award, I passed by Frank's table. He stopped me, gave me a hug and told me he was proud of me. What an honor! This guy is a legend and a revered member of the film industry and he's congratulating me! I'm just a simple filmmaker; I still have so much work to do.

What was the group pictorial like?

My Pinoy publicist friends Winston and David Magdael had told me it would be memorable just because it was a documented image of the Academy Class of 2005. Our positions were spontaneous. Being petite, I got to stand with the little girls… like Reese Witherspoon, since we are around the same height!

Did it feel like really belonging to a class?

Absolutely. As each name was called when the certificates were distributed, everyone cheered and applauded.

What was on the menu?

Steak and fish and a delicious chocolate confection. But with George Clooney, Joaquin Phoenix and Matt Dillon just few feet away, I felt I was about to have too much dessert.

Coming away from the event, how did you feel?

That it was a memory that would stay with me for a lifetime. Being surrounded by such talented people only makes you want to do better.

(E-mail the columnist at rvnepales_5585@yahoo.com.)

"GOAL!" for people who like their drama with extra cheese.

Sport & soap

By Oliver M. Pulumbarit
Contributor

REVIEW

IF YOU DON'T MIND YOUR sports movie soap operatic, then you'll enjoy "Goal!", a rags-to-riches tale about a young football star-in-the-making. Dreams come true, believes hardworking young Los Angelino Santiago Munez (Kuno Becker), never mind that 10 years after illegally crossing to America from Mexico, his family has yet to find greener pastures.

Santiago meets a British ex-football star (Stephen Dillane), who sees in him the potential to make it big in international football. The aspiring athlete is presented as an underdog that will triumph over his mundane and extraordinary travails, including two purposeless jobs and a disapproving and controlling father (Tony Plana).

As if this weren't cliché enough, our protagonist has to run away from home to chase after his dream. He also has to keep his asthma a secret from a taunting teammate. Getting into England's Newcastle United as a reserve player is not that easy, and of course he barely makes it. The story gets weighed down when characters verbalize their epiphanies. But that should resonate with people who like their drama with extra cheese.

Directed by Danny Cannon—whose prior works include episodes of "CSI" and the teen slasher flick "I Still Know What You Did Last Summer"—"Goal!" is a sharp reflection of Brits' real-life obsession with football. The camera work is energetic but try, if you can, to ignore the blaring of orchestral music at the slightest hint of conflict.

Becker's naïve yet relentless Santiago is well-played, and he certainly has charisma and good looks. The story goes in all directions in the second half, and the dialogue will make you want to cover your face, but it can work as a guilty pleasure. Nope, it doesn't deserve a sequel.

Ang Lee recovers with 'Brokeback'

VIEWFINDER

Nestor U. Torre

"BROKEBACK MOUNTAIN" IS both a critical and popular hit, so director **Ang Lee** is getting his share of plaudits for the film's success.

People are amazed at how a Chinese megman could so effectively and insightfully direct a film about cowboys set in Wyoming and Texas!

Fact is, Lee was born and raised in Taiwan but moved to the United States in 1978. After receiving a Bachelor of Fine Arts in theater from the University of Illinois, he completed a Masters of Fine Arts degree in Film Production.

His short film, "Fine Line," won Best Director and Best Film awards at the NYU Film Festival. His first feature film, "Pushing Hands," was cited as Best Film at the Asia-Pacific Film Festival.

Lee's "The Wedding Banquet" won the top prize (Golden Bear) at the 1993 Berlin International Film Festival. His "Eat Drink Man Woman" was named Best Foreign Language Film by the US National Board of Review.

Lee's "Sense and Sensibility" won Golden Globe awards for Best Picture (Drama) and Best Screenplay, was named Best Picture by Bafta and the National Board of Review, and won the Golden Bear at the 1996 Berlin filmfest.

His "The Ice Storm" was the Best Screenplay winner at the 1997 Cannes filmfest. And "Crouching Tiger, Hidden Dragon" received the Oscar for Best Foreign Language Film, and won Best Director awards for Lee from the Directors Guild of America, Bafta and the Golden Globes.

Fact is, Lee's only critical flop was "The Hulk." But he's recovered nicely with "Brokeback Mountain."

As these notes show, Lee can't really be described as an "Asian" filmmaker, since he's made most of his movies in the States. Still, his Chinese heritage helps account for the unique sensitivity and sensibility that informs his movie projects.

"Brokeback Mountain" is in particular need of sensitive treatment due to its potentially controversial story about two cowboys who find their truest love—in each other.

The fact that the film has garnered many more praises than brickbats is a testament to Lee's delicate handling of the movie.

How did he get involved in the project? Lee: "(Producer) **James Schamus** mentioned to me that he had just come across this interesting short story by **Annie Proulx**. I read it, and I had tears in my eyes at the end, and it stayed with me. I then read the screenplay, and it was a very faithful and great adaptation.

"I decided to do it despite its controversial nature—or maybe even because of it."

Despite its obvious merits, the movie took seven long years to get to the big screen, because major studios were leery of its sensitive nature. But Lee helped push for it because "I just knew ... if I let it go, I would regret it for the rest of my life!"

And what do the other artists involved in the production have to say about their director?

Heath Ledger: "He always seems to know exactly what he wants. He slips into possession of the story he's telling with ease."

Anne Hathaway: "He won't let things not be truthful. He understands the importance of subtlety."

Randy Quaid: "Like all great directors, Ang is an actor's friend and he attracts all the best people. So, you just want to do your best in that kind of environment."

"**Jake Gyllenhaal**: "He made me feel empowered."

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CINEMA 1 GOAL 11:20, 2:00, 4:40, 7:20, 10:00 GP
CINEMA 2 FIREWALL 11:40, 2:20, 5:00, 7:40, 10:20 PG13
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PROMENADE GREENHILLS
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NOW SHOWING
CINEMA 3 AEON FLUX 11:15, 1:30, 3:45, 6:00, 8:15, 10:30 R13
CINEMA 4 BROKEBACK MOUNTAIN 11:50, 2:50, 5:45, 8:40 R18
CINEMA 5 PINK PANTHER 10:40, 1:00, 3:20, 5:40, 8:00, 10:20 GP
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Rockwell Center, Makati City ☎ Tel. No: 8981440-41
DOLBY DIGITAL SURROUND-EX
FIREWALL PG13 12:10,2:35,5:00, 7:25,9:50
BROKEBACK MOUNTAIN R18 2:20,5:00,7:40,10:20
AEON FLUX R13 1:35,3:45,5:55, 8:05,10:15
CLOSE TO YOU GP 12:40,3:00,5:20, 7:40,10:00
GOAL GP 12:15,2:45,5:15, 7:45,10:15
PINK PANTHER GP 1:35,3:45,5:55, 8:05,10:15
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For inquiries, call:
687-6963
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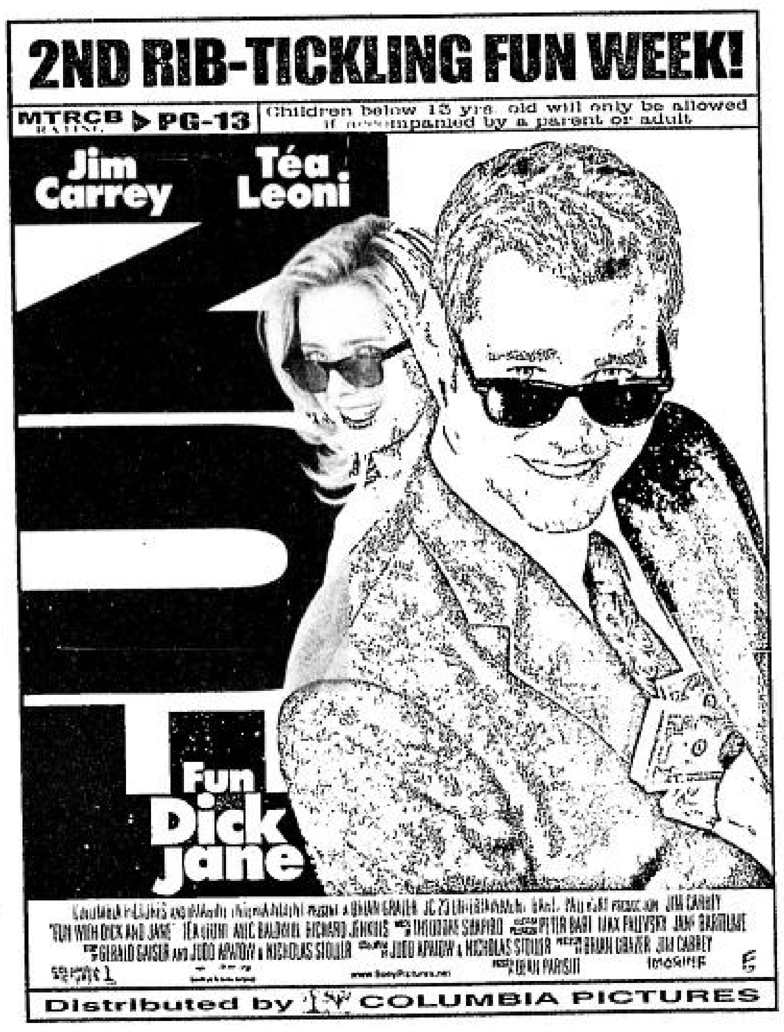
MOVIES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE
1 BROKE BACK MOUNTAIN 11:00, 1:55, 4:50, 7:45, 10:40 R-18
2 PINK PANTHER 1:40, 4:00, 6:20, 8:40, 11:00 GP
3 AEON FLUX 1:05, 3:35, 6:05, 8:35, 11:00 R-13
4 GOAL 1:10, 3:40, 6:10, 8:35, 11:00 GP



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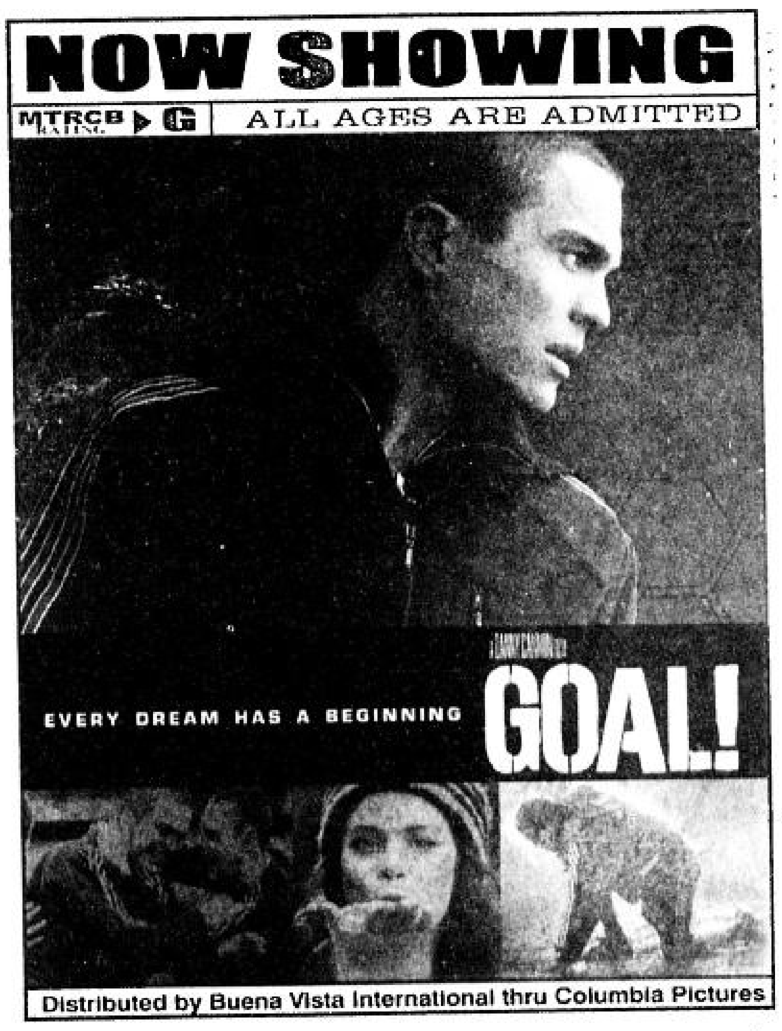

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ALL AGES ARE ADMITTED
EVERY DREAM HAS A BEGINNING
GOAL!
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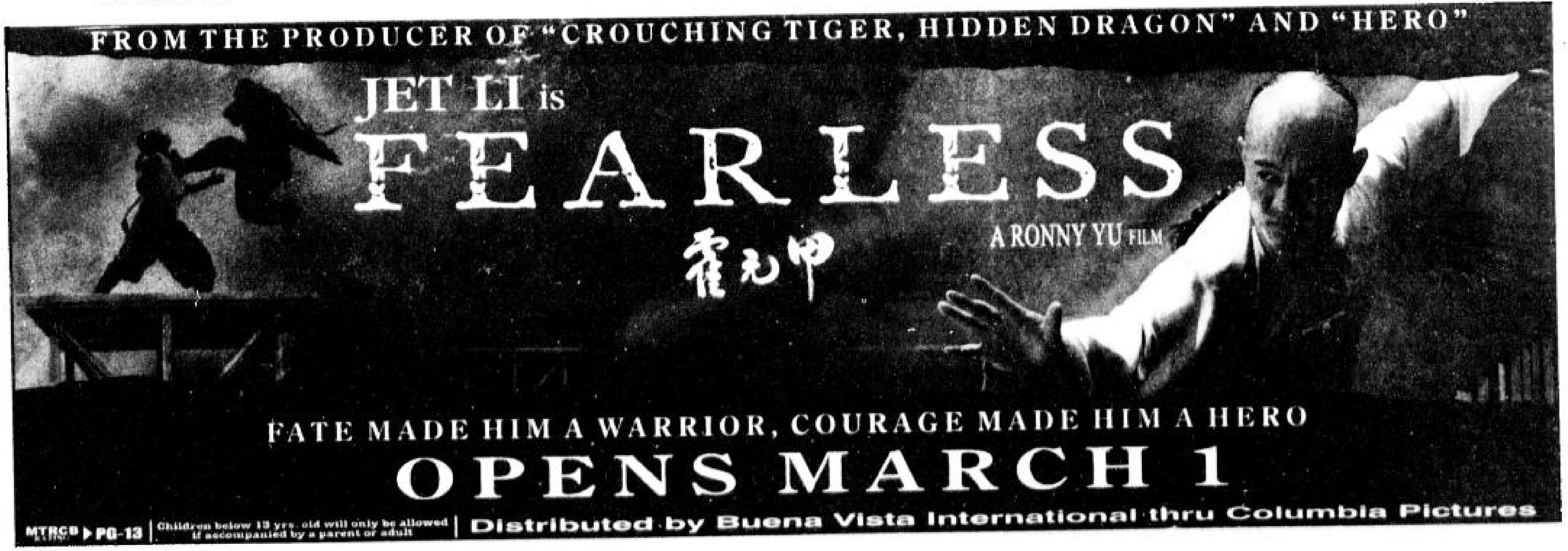

FROM THE PRODUCER OF "CROUCHING TIGER, HIDDEN DRAGON" AND "HERO"
JET LI is
FEARLESS
霍元甲
A RONNY YU FILM
FATE MADE HIM A WARRIOR, COURAGE MADE HIM A HERO
OPENS MARCH 1
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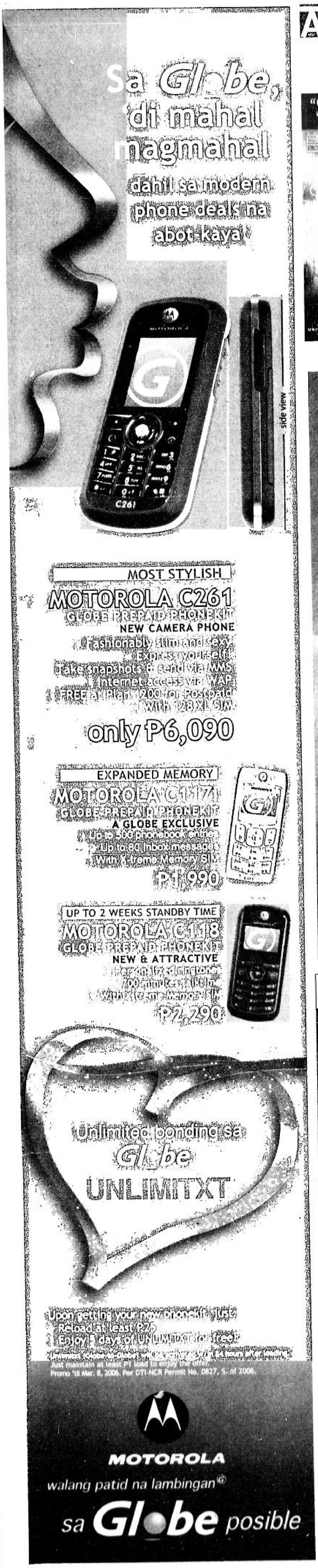
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ROUNDUP

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TIME MAGAZINE
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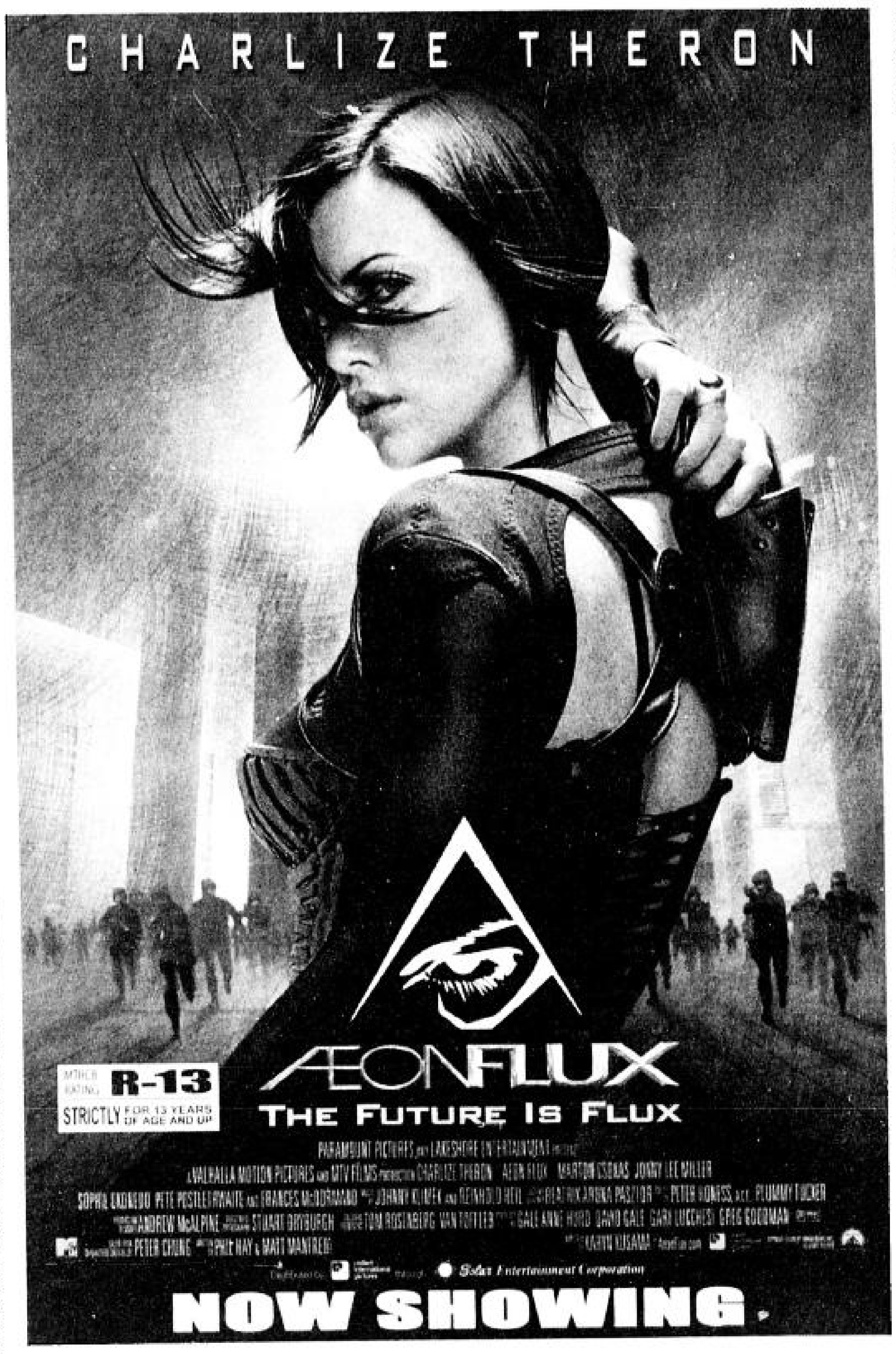
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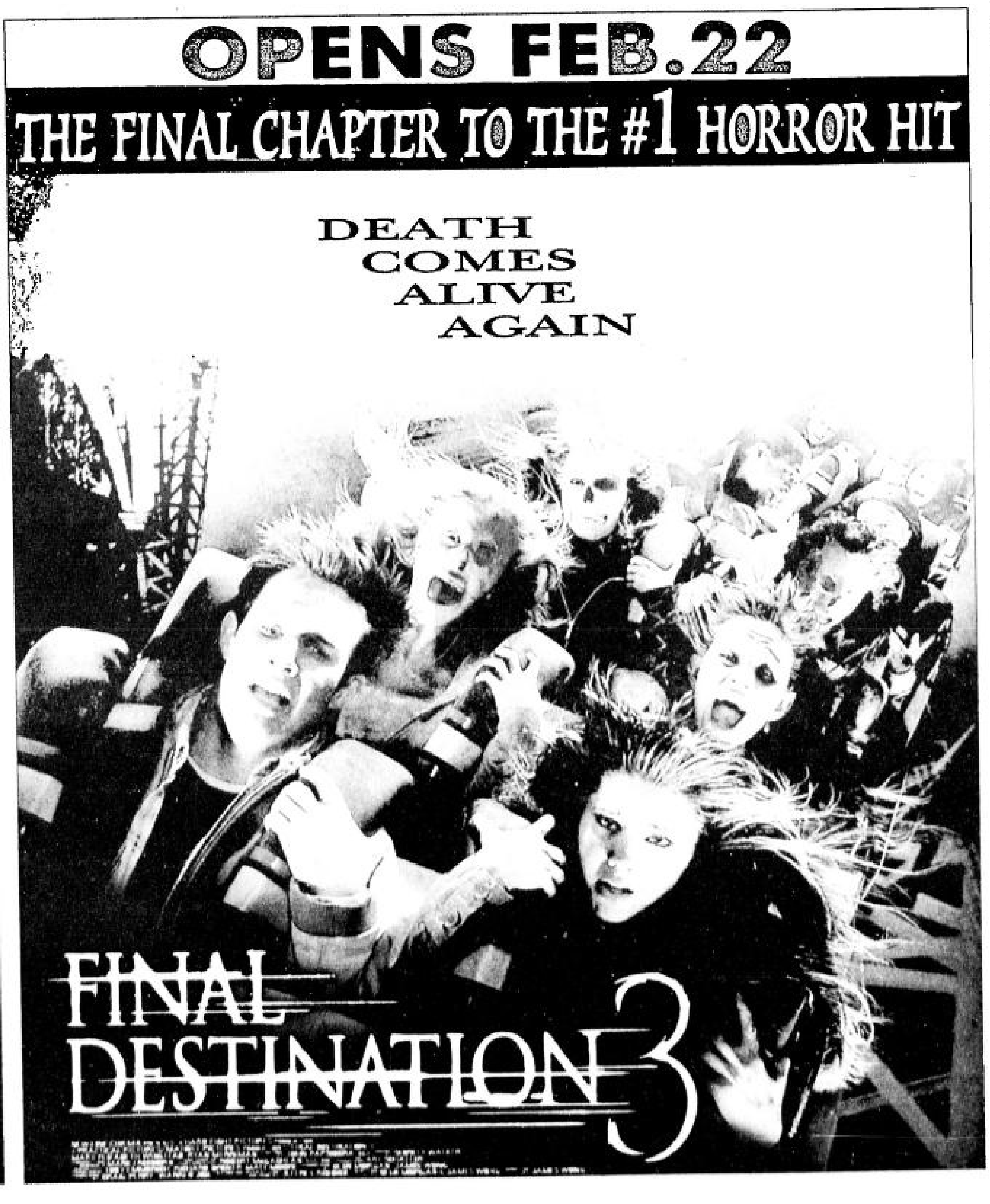
OPENS FEB.22
THE FINAL CHAPTER TO THE #1 HORROR HIT
DEATH COMES ALIVE AGAIN
FINAL DESTINATION 3

P60-M franchise

ABC 5 is set to produce "Pinoy Idol" and begin broadcast by June or July.

Sources said the network paid "American Idol" producers about P60 million as "franchise fee."

According to the sources, network owner Tonyboy Cojuangco is prepared to spend up to P100 million for one season.

"Maybe that's where some of the fresh funds will be used," said one source.

The former owner of PLDT infused about P500 million into ABC 5 in the fourth quarter of last year. *Clarissa S. Batino*

Not true

HOLMES and Cruise AP

LOS ANGELES—Not true.

That's what Tom Cruise and Katie Holmes said Tuesday about a Valentine's Day report on the Life & Style magazine Website, which claimed Cruise and Holmes had split up and called off their wedding.

"The story is 100 percent false," Arnold Robinson, a publicist for the couple, said in a statement. "Mr. Cruise and Ms. Holmes are still engaged and are moving forward with their wedding plans, as well as planning for the arrival of their child."

Holmes, 27, and Cruise, 43, have been engaged since June. *AP*

Uncut 'Mountain'

SINGAPORE cinemas have begun screening the movie "Brokeback Mountain" on Thursday in what critics say is a sign of loosening censorship. The country bans gay sex.

"This shows they are willing to give more scope for homosexuality to be examined as an issue in popular culture," said Russell Heng, founder of People Like Us, a gay support group.

But theater admission will be restricted to audiences over age 21, and promotional material will carry a consumer advisory saying, "Mature theme, sexual scenes." AP

For gay cowboys

NELSON AP

NASHVILLE—Country music singer Willie Nelson sang "Mammas Don't Let Your Babies Grow Up to Be Cowboys" and "My Heroes Have Always Been Cowboys" more than 25 years ago.

But he released a different sort of cowboy anthem this Valentine's Day.

"Cowboys Are Frequently, Secretly (Fond of Each Other)" may be the first gay cowboy song by a major recording artist.

Available exclusively through iTunes beginning Tuesday, the song features choppy Tex-Mex style guitar runs and Nelson's deadpan delivery of lines like, "What did you think all them saddles and boots was about?" AP

China project

HONG KONG—Hollywood actor Alec Baldwin will shoot a movie in China about a joint Sino-US operation to arrest a Japanese war criminal after World War II and a subsequent treasure hunt, a news report said.

The movie, titled "The Forbidden City," is a US$12 million production directed by Russian Andrei Konchalovsky and adapted from the novel "The Last Mandarin" by Stephen Becker. *AP*

Post-V show

THE PODIUM presents Jocephine Gomez in a popular French, German, Spanish, English and Italian love songs in "Essence of Love," tonight at 7.

Gomez deviates from her usual program of classical songs and opera arias with the addition of songs popularized by Josh Groban, Sarah Brightman and Edith Piaf.

She will be assisted at the piano by musical director Carlos Perion, at the keyboard by Onard Bonavente and on sax and flute by Boy Abadier. Guest is Ray Sison who will perform solo numbers on the flute.

Admission is free.

WHAT'S INSIDE

January BOP surplus hits $1.9B /B2

Engulfed in subterfuge /B3

BUSINESS

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Editor **Raul O. Marcelo**
Assistant Editor **Corrie S. Narisma**

Q1 trade prospects upbeat

Survey reveals rosiest sentiment in three years

By Doris C. Dumlao

LOCAL BUSINESSES APPEAR TO BE bullish over prospects for the first quarter on the back of an appreciating peso, notable progress in the government's fiscal restructuring and slowdown in interest rates, based on the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas' latest survey.

This quarter's business expectations survey (BES)—conducted from Jan. 2 to Feb. 3—showed a jump in the diffusion index (DI) to 23.4 percent from 2.8 percent in the previous quarter's survey, BSP director for research Iluminada Sicat said in a press briefing.

It was the rosiest quarterly sentiment gauged by the BSP since it initiated the quarterly BES survey three years ago.

The DI refers to the percentage share of firms that answered in the affirmative, less those that answered negative on a given indicator. A positive DI indicates a favorable view when measuring confidence levels.

The services sector was the most upbeat with an index of 31.6 percent, up from 11.3 percent a quarter ago.

The industry sector likewise posted a higher index of 29.6 percent as compared to the 2 percent of the previous quarter. The indices for construction and trade turned positive at 25.3 percent and 8.4 percent, respectively, compared to the previous -11.4 percent and -2.1 percent.

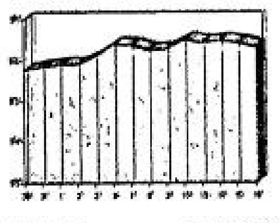
Based on the latest survey which covered 933 respondents, optimism is even higher, looking towards the second quarter with a DI of 37.2 percent, Sicat said.

Confidence on second quarter prospects was bolstered by expectation of

Q1 TRADE/ B2

INDICATORS

CURRENCIES



JANUARY FEBRUARY

PESO-DOLLAR RATE

₱51.69 = $1

As of 5 p.m., Feb. 16, 2006

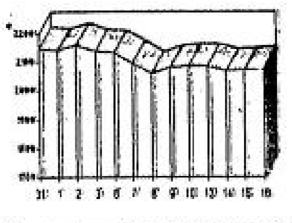
¥117.77 = $1

As of 5 p.m., Feb. 16, 2006

GOLD: $546.30-546.80

per ounce Hong Kong, Feb. 15, 2006

PSE COMPOSITE INDEX



(See stock market report on Page B5)

Stocks close 0.11% higher

SHARE PRICES YESTERDAY CLOSED 0.11 percent higher, a marginal gain, as investors chose to stay on the sidelines in the absence of fresh, compelling leads, dealers said.

They said sentiment was mixed as some investors were still worried about further increases in US interest rates despite relatively benign comments

STOCKS/ B5

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January balance of payments surplus hits $1.9B

Global bonds issuance provided the boost

By Doris C. Dumlao

THE GOVERNMENT'S FORAY INTO the global bond market earlier this year allowed the country to post a hefty balance of payments surplus of $1.92 billion in January, a turnaround from the $277 million deficit a year ago.

The Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas yesterday said that last month's surplus, the highest monthly surplus level in history, mirrored the surge in the gross international reserves to $20 billion in January.

The net BOP build-up in January also dwarfed the $273 million surplus registered in December.

Taking advantage of the improved investor confidence in the Philippines, the government decided to tap the offshore capital market early in the year. It sold $1.5 billion worth of US dollar-denominated bonds and 500 million euros worth of euro-denominated bonds.

The $2.1 billion worth of sovereign debt issuance was the first Asian international bond deal this year.

The BOP measures the foreign exchange transactions between the domestic economy and the rest of the world. Its major components are the current account and the capital and financial account.

Any transaction that requires foreign exchange payment by a Philippine resident, like importation, is a deficit item in the BOP. Transactions involving receipt of foreign exchange—such as borrowings, inward remittances and exportation—are surplus items.

The BSP believes the country's strong BOP surplus will provide continued support for the peso, which is now trading at a three-and-a-half year high versus the US dollar. Last year, the peso appreciated by about 6 percent owing to strong foreign exchange inflows, making it Asia's best performing currency.

London-based Fitch Ratings, which recently upgraded its outlook on the country's debt rating from "negative" to "stable" cited the strong external sector as a fundamental rating strength for the Philippines especially since current account surpluses based on large remittance inflows were forecast to be sustained.

GMA 7 wants Ch. 27 back

By Clarissa S. Batino

GMA NETWORK WANTS TO GET BACK THE Channel 27 slot in SkyCable and Home Cable for the broadcast of Zoe TV shows.

The country's most profitable network had asked the National Telecommunications Commission to order SkyCable and Home Cable to return Channel 27 to GMA 7.

GMA 7 said it wanted Zoe TV to use the Channel 27 slot since it had been experiencing signal problems with Channel 11.

It also asked the NTC to impose sanctions on SkyCable and Home Cable for disregarding,the regulator's orders for all pay TV operators to comply with the "must-carry rule," which required cable companies to air free TV channels on their slots.

GMA 7 is producing shows for Zoe TV Channel 11 using its broadcast facilities. Its programming for Channel 11 was classified as QTV or Quality TV.

Channel 27 is a UHF (ultra high frequency) channel of GMA 7, as Channel 23 is to its chief rival, ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corp.

"Zoe's QTV 11 as a program is to be broadcast in the cable TV system at GMA's UHF TV Channel 27 because of the signal distortion and interference in its present channel position," said GMA in its Feb. 10 letter to the NTC.

GMA 7, in its letter to the NTC, said Central CATV Inc. (the company that operates SkyCable and Home Cable) had rejected its request to recover the slot.

Channel 27 in SkyCable and Home Cable airs ANC, a news channel of ABS-CBN.

Previously, the slot was occupied by foreign news channel CNN.

GMA 7 said that in the past, SkyCable refused to give back Channel 27 because of its contractual obligation with CNN.

"Curiously, however, SkyCable was able to displace CNN in July 2005 and easily replaced the said channel with that of ANC," GMA 7 told the NTC in its letter.

LandBank '05 profit rises by 34% to ₱3B

LAND BANK OF THE PHILIPPINES POSTED A record P3.02 billion in net income in 2005 on increased lending activities and prudent spending.

The amount was 34 percent higher than the P2.24 billion registered in the previous year.

"This is a historic high for LandBank and we are hoping to sustain this strong performance this year," said LandBank acting president and CEO Gilda Pico.

The bank is hoping to increase its profit to P3.3 billion this year.

LandBank also maintained strong showing in other major financial indicators. Its assets grew 8 percent to P310.5 billion in 2005 from P287.8 billion in 2004.

Bank deposits increased 13 percent to P242.8 billion last year from P214.9 billion the previous year, keeping LandBank at third in industry ranking.

Net loans expanded to P140.8 billion in 2005 from P133 billion the previous year.

Equitable PCI posts 33% growth in net income

EQUITABLE PCI BANK REPORTED A 33-PERcent rise in its net profit to P2.4 billion from year-ago level.

The bank said in a statement that the report was still unaudited and had yet to fully reflect adjustments required under the new International Accounting Standards.

The improved profit performance was attributed to a wider net interest margin, better asset and liability mix, healthier loan portfolio and larger non-interest income.

EPCIBank president Rene Buenaventura said the bank had focused on pursuing higher-margin middle income and retail accounts, building up its low-cost deposit base, cleaning up the balance sheet and boosting non-interest income.

Gross interest income for the period went up by 17 percent to P19.4 billion, while interest expense rose by 10 percent to P8.5 billion. Net interest income stood at P10.9 billion, 22 percent better than a year ago.

Investment accounts improved by 12 percent to P67.7 billion.

However, net customers loans were flat at P137.1 billion after reflecting the second tranche non-performing asset sale worth P5.3 billion in the third quarter. The bank's non-performing loan ratio dropped to 4.14 percent of total loans from 7.13 percent in 2004.

Doris C. Dumlao

Q1 trade ...

From page B1

higher sales during the summer, and the school opening in June, as well as improved tourist arrivals and more robust export receipts.

Business sentiment last reflected bearish prospects in the third quarter of 2005, when the DI showed a -3 percent. At the time, political uncertainties were compounded by worries over the government's fragile fiscal position and skyrocketing oil prices.

There was an uptrend in the expectations of respondents from the NCR, whose DI reversed to 26.9 percent versus a -0.8 percent index in the previous survey. The index accelerated further to 43 percent for the next quarter.

On the other hand, the DI in areas outside NCR rose to 17.3 percent for the first quarter, and further to 27.5 percent for the next quarter.

The employment outlook index also surged to 14.4 percent from -0.5 percent a quarter ago.

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*Ang self-confidence ay isang napaka-importanteng sangkap sa tagumpay ng isang tao. Nadadagdagan din ang self-confidence ng isang tao kung siya ay komportable sa kanyang panlabas na kaanyuan. Dito alam ko na malaki ang maitutulong ko kaya nag-aral ako ng medisina, clinical dermatology, pati na rin ng iba't-ibang laser surgery technologies, dito sa Pilipinas, sa US at sa Thailand bago itatag ang **Belo Medical Center**. Sa ngayon mas kilala kami dahil sa mga celebrity clients namin ngunit lingid sa nakararami, layunin ko na makahanap ng paraan upang ang karamihan ng Pilipino ay magkaroon ng access sa quality, safe at affordable products at services mula sa simpleng facial hanggang sa major cosmetic surgeries. At ito nga ang pinagtutuunan ko ng pansin sa ngayon.*

Kung nais mo rin na tumulong sa pag-angat ang kaledad ng pamumuhay ng Pilipino sa pamamagitan ng siyensiya at medisina, attend na sa Go Negosyo Entrepreneurship Summit at Expo!

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DAY 1 (February 23, 2006/ 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.)

PCE Recognition of Outstanding Entrepreneurship Teachers / Students / Programs by PCE • FORUM 1: Building National Confidence and Optimism To Inspire More Successful Filipino Entrepreneurs - Moderators: Rico Hizon & Anna Marie Periquet - Panelists: Socorro Ramos, Hon. Jose Concepcion III, Dr. Rolando Hortaleza, Atty. Felipe Gozon, Vivienne Tan, Henry Lim Bon Liong, Rodrigo Rivera, Marixi Prieto*, Grace Glory Go • LUNCH BREAK TOPIC: Feng Shui Master Charlie Chao's Business Outlook • FORUM 2: A Global Market Beckons The Filipino Entrepreneur - Panelists: Dennis Mendiola, Dr. Paco Sandejas, Guillermo Luchangco, Ben Colayco, Menardo Jimenez Jr. • FORUM 3: Uncommon Heroes for the Common Good - Panelists:Dr. Justin Arboleda, Francisco Colayco, Ray Gapuz Jr., Rina Lopez-Bautista*, Dylan Wilk, Gerry Geronimo* • Breeding The Entrepreneurial Mindset and Culture By Raju Mandhyan • FORUM 4: New Approaches in Entrepreneurship Education • CULMINATING FORUM: Triggering the Age of Entrepreneurship in the Philippines - Panelists:Sec. Arthur Yap, Sec. Estrella Alabastro, Chairman Carlito Puno, OIC/Secretary Fe Hidalgo, Undersecretary Zorayda Amelia Alonzo, Executive Director Gondelina Amata, Gov. Luis Raymund F. Villafuerte*, Linda Wirth*, Johnlu Koa, Prof. Josephine Aguilar

DAY 2 (February 24, 2006/ 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.)

Opening Ceremonies Cutting of Ribbon:VP Noli de Castro, Sen.Manuel Villar, Sen. Manuel Roxas II,Sen. Ramon Magsaysay Jr.,Sen. Francis Pangilinan, Cong.Wilhelmino Alvarado, Mayor Rosendo Capco, Mayor Freddie Tinga, Government Officials, Partner Organizations • International Workshop on Technopreneurship - Conducted by: Prof. Patrick Chan - HOST: DOST • Business Plan Competition Brief: PCE/PESO, CFBC, ENEDA, JCI, HSBC, TIES, ONIA, GEN-P • Easy Tips on How to Start a Retail Business and How to Supply to Retailers - By: Steven T. Cua • "Elevator Pitch" Exhibition by Business Plan Contest Winners & Runners-up • Funding Options for Outstanding Business Plans • Easy on the pocket Business Ideas By: Food Cart Association of the Philippines • Awarding of PCE-ENEDA Cup Winners • GO NEGOSYO Concert with Orange and Lemons at the Central Plaza, Market! Market!

DAY 3 (February 25, 2006/ 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.)

The Franchise Boom: Now is the Time to Get Started By: Association of Filipino Franchisers Inc. • International Workshop on Technopreneurship - Conducted by: Prof. Patrick Chan - HOST: DOST • Franchise Your Business An Option for Growth - By: Philippine Franchise Association • The Entrepreneur: Know Thyself - By: Lex Ledesma • Finding Your Opportunity of a Lifetime: Where do Entrepreneurs Get Their Ideas - By: Jay Bernardo • Moving Innovations to Market - By: Maoi Arroyo • The Essentials of a Successful Business Start-up - By: Joel Santos • FORUM: Financing Programs that Work - Moderator: Mau Bolante - Panelists: National Livelihood Support Fund, Personal Bank Loan providers, ABS-CBN Bayan Microfinance Foundation, Pawnshops, Cooperatives • Safeguarding and Optimizing Your Intellectual Capital - By: Intellectual Property Office

*final list of speakers for confirmation

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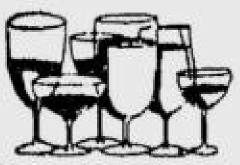

COCKTALES

Victor C. Agustin

THREATENED BY THE SPECTACULAR INroads of the state-subsidized Arab competition not only in the country but in the region, Philippine Airlines has cranked up its considerable media lobby to oppose this weekend's air talks in Clark between the government and Bahrain.

The PAL spin is this: Gulf Air president James Hogan met with PAL chair Lucio Tan in October and shook hands on an agreement on a code-sharing alliance rather have their respective governments go through with bilateral negotiations.

Between then and now, Gulf Air apparently changed its mind, and now through Bahrain wants its government to seek flight entitlements, which would then accrue to Gulf Air as the country's lone flag carrier.

Before these rounds of negotiations, Gulf Air had merely borrowed the United Arab Emirates' entitlements, now withdrawn, to fly to Manila.

Indeed, why code-share when Gulf Air can have the entire pie to itself; PAL, ironically, does not fly to Bahrain now and within the foreseeable future.

PAL had thought the Bahrain-RP talks had been rescheduled for April, when PAL shall have forged an agreement with Saudi Arabia to save its Riyadh flights, PAL's remaining Middle East destination.

That hoped-for agreement with Saudi Arabia would allow the Philippine flag carrier to stop over and pick up passengers in Dubai and, with the additional traffic, it is hoped, turn around its losing, and much-shrunken Middle East segment.

But with Bahrain and the Philippines meeting ahead and likely to reach an agreement, PAL thinks Saudi Arabia would no longer have an incentive to allow PAL the Dubai stop.

Raising the ante, PAL even preempted the Clark meetings, and now the carrier has no choice but to stop altogether the Saudi Arabian flights effective next month, thus leaving the Middle East market, and the Filipino contract workers, entirely to the Arab airlines.

OUCH (Office of the Unretired Chair)

RCBC has issued a clarification of its announcement that Ambassador Alfonso Yuchengco has turned over the reins of his financial and insurance empire to his eldest daughter, Helen Y. Dee.

"Please take note that Ambassador Alfonso T. Yuchengco has not retired from his positions with the Rizal Commercial Banking Corp. as director and honorary chairman," the clarification said.

Translation: Like Singapore Senior Minister Lee Kuan Yew, the taipan is still around to occasionally look over the shoulders of his daughter.

Money-go-round

- THE STERN, always composed Toyota president Nobuharu Tabata was on the verge of tears as he gave a farewell speech to industry colleagues Tuesday night at a packed Makati Shangri-La ballroom.

Tabata, who led the Japanese automaker to undisputed sales leadership four years in a row, said in an almost confessional tone that the Philippine assignment had indeed been the "best" in his lifelong Toyota career.

- Former Metro Pacific president Ricardo Pascua has declined his nomination for the presidency of the Asian Institute of Management.

Heard through the grapevine

INVESTMENT bankers and stock pickers used to mutter about a "Lopez premium" and a "Gokongwei discount." With Lopez IPO/stocks tanking and Gokongwei offerings suddenly hot, it is now the other way around.

(Email: cocktales_pdi@pldtdsl.net or cocktales_pdi@yahoo.com)

Naia 3 opening still uncertain, says MIAA chief

By Clarissa S. Batino

THE MANILA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT AUthority is set to complete the unfinished portions of the Ninoy Aquino International Airport Terminal 3 by the end of March but the facility may not be opened yet for commercial operations due to legal issues, its top official said.

"The terminal is already 98 percent complete and the 2-percent unfinished portion will be completed by March 31," said MIAA general manager Alfonso Cusi in an interview.

The MIAA is completing civil works to correct "the more than 40 construction defects" at the Naia 3, as claimed by government consultants who looked into the terminal after the government seized it in December 2004.

"The schedule of the terminal's opening has yet to be decided. We fear that there are legal issues that may be jeopardized if we open or do a dry run," noted Cusi.

Fraport, the German group that owned the majority stake in Philippine International Air Terminals Co., filed a $425-million claim against the Philippines in September 2003 before a Washington arbitration court.

It also sued the Philippine government for $900 million. Piatco, the company that won the bid to build and operate Naia 3 but whose contract was nullified by the Supreme Court in 2002, is asking an arbitration court in Singapore to order the government to compensate the company $525 million for its investments.

The Department of Transportation and Communications vowed to operate the mothballed Ninoy Aquino International Airport Terminal 3 within the first half of the year.

A transport official earlier said the pending arbitration cases should not affect the timetable.

"Pending the results of arbitration, the government has the option to open and operate the terminal even before the amount of just compensation is determined," said Transport assistant secretary Robert Castanares. "We think public interest is paramount."

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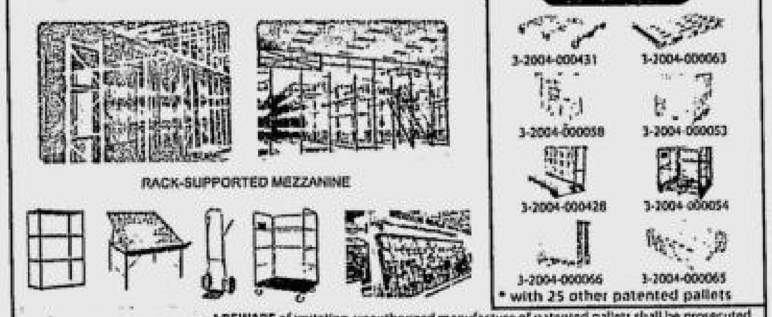
Bond Fund - Peso	1.38183	1.36757
Managed Fund - Peso	1.49575	1.48735
Growth Fund - Peso	1.13209	1.13991
Bond Fund - US Dollar	1.2395	1.2302

* Note These investments of variable life insurance contracts are not mutual funds. Life insurance products are regulated by the Insurance Commission



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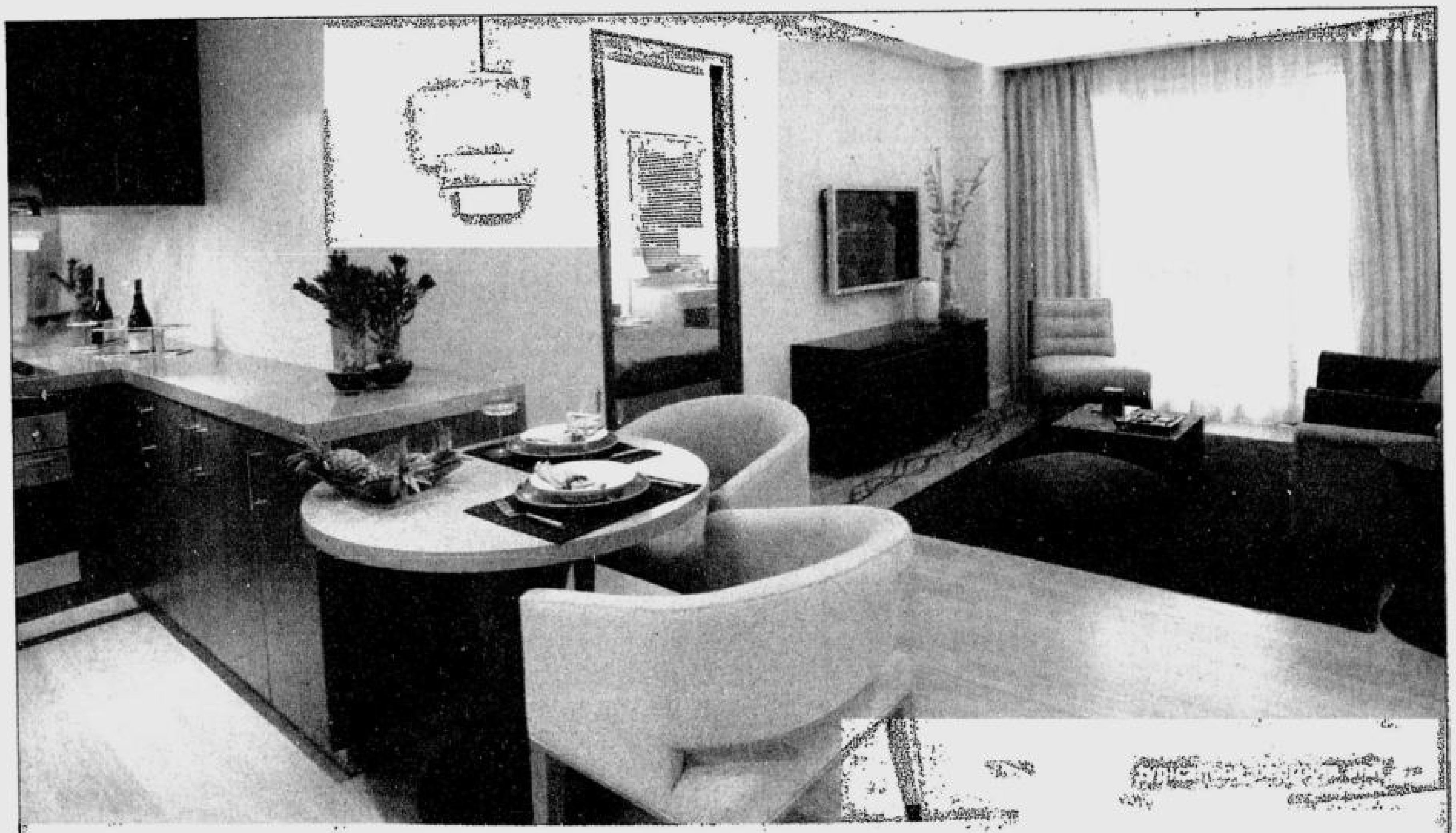

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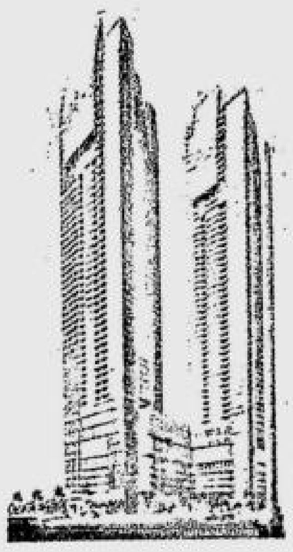

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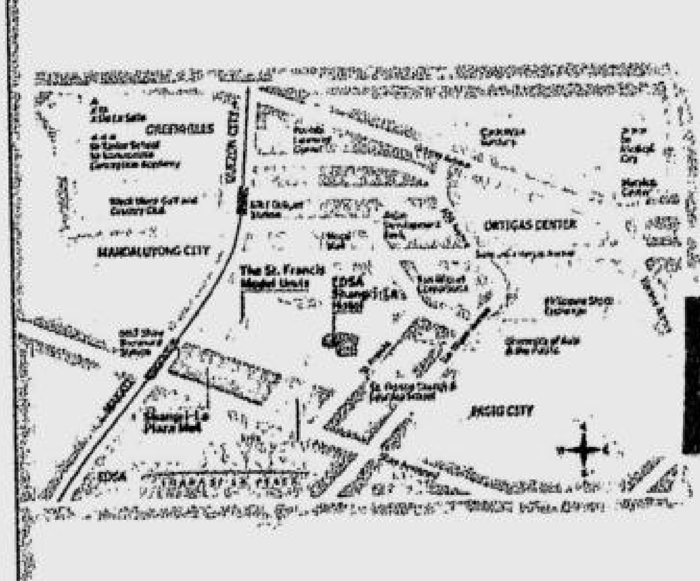

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Sundays 12:00 noon every Thursday

COMMERCIAL

MANILA

• Sta. Cruz Rizal Ave. 1112m² Frontage 35M Negotiable Bet. Fugozo / (Zurbaran) / Bambang
• Malate Adriatico Vacant 1189m² Frontage 28M Negotiable Near Remedios Circle
• Taft Ave / Indiana 2585m² Frontage 41M & 39M Negotiable Near PGH
• Paco Perez St. Lot 1006m² w/ 2-stry semi-concrete reswhse. Negotiable Between Apacible / UN Avenue

MAKATI

• Poblacion, Mercado St cor lot 1078m² Negotiable Nr. P. Burgos Street
• District 1 Chino Roces (Pasong Tamo) cor lot 3700m² Negotiable Near Don Bosco

PASAY

• Park Ave. Rear to Primero de Mayo lot 1490m² Negotiable

PARAÑAQUE

• SLEX East Service Rd. cor lot 2902m² vacant Negotiable Near Bicutan Interchange

MANDALUYONG

• Ortigas Center San Miguel Ave. cor lot 10509m² Negotiable Near SM Megamall

SAN JUAN

• Eisenhower 1000m² Negotiable Near Club Filipino
• Ortigas Ave. cor lot 1857m² w/ multi-stry office bldg. Negotiable Near Caltex S/S

PASIG

• Rosario Ortigas Ave. Ext. cor lot 15000m² Negotiable Near Ugong Interchange

QUEZON CITY

• Cubao Aurora Blvd. cor lot 1298m² Negotiable
• District 2 Commonwealth Ave. cor lot 4152m² Negotiable Near NCBA College
• Nayong Kaunlaran Surigao St. 600m² Negotiable Bet. Del Monte / West Avenues
• Balintawak EDSA lot 23157m² Negotiable Near Muñoz Plaza

VALENZUELA

• Marulas, McArthur Hi-way lot 19449m² Frontage 67M w/ multi-stry commercial bldg. Negotiable Near Our Lady of Fatima University

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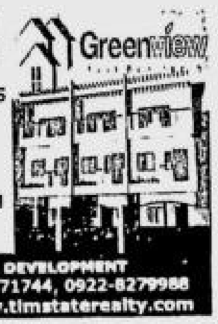

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CONDO/TWNHSE

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PUBLIC NOTICES

LEGAL NOTICE

Notice is given that the estate of the late CONSTANTE C. PAZ has been extrajudicially settled among his heirs before Notary Public Oscar Eusebio, San Diego, California, U.S.A and authenticated by Vice - Consul Gines Jaime Ricardo D. Gallaga of the Republic of the Philippines, Los Angeles, California, U.S.A per Document No. 02060-62, Series of 2006
(PDI Feb. 10, 17 & 24, 2006)

Notice is hereby given that the estate of the late Jesus Delprado and Pura Cabrera has been extrajudicially settled by their heirs before Notary Public Leticia S. Mariano de Guia of Parañaque City. As per Doc. No. 82 Page 18 Book No. 111 Series of 2006.
(PDI Feb. 3,10, & 17, 2006)

PERSONAL

Thank You Holy Spirit From Tomasa & Anselmo Estacio

Thank You Holy Spirit From Enrique Del Rosario Jr.

PHILEX MINING CORPORATION
No. 27 Brixton Street and Fairlane Street
Pasig City, Metro Manila

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

Philex Mining Corporation invites contractors to apply for eligibility and to bid for the following projects:

1. **SUPPLY, MAINTENANCE AND CONSULTANCY SERVICES PMC'S FEEDER BELT CONVEYING SYSTEM;**
2. **EARTHWORKS – SUBSIDENCE BACKFILLING.**

Only contractors with expertise on the said mining activities will be welcomed. Also, interested parties must submit their intent to participate and their latest company profile by February 21, 2006 and attend the pre-qualification orientation scheduled on February 25, 2006, 1:30 p.m. at Padcal, Tuba, Benquet.

All letters and/or inquiries submit to: Atty. Jennifer Jane Gogoling, Bidding Chairman (Fax no. 09195470629 / Cellphone no. 09189193266 / email: jfg@philexmining.com.ph)

(Sgd.) JOSE ERNESTO C. VILLALUNA
President and Chief Operating Officer

(PDI - February 17, 2006)

Philippine Economic Zone Authority
Roxas Boulevard corner San Luis Street, Pasay City, Metro Manila Philippines
Telephone 891-6444 • Facsimile 551-9587
E-mail: peza_bac_secretariat@yahoo.com • Website: www.peza.gov.ph

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The Philippine Economic Zone Authority (PEZA), through its Corporate Operating Budget for CY 2006 intends to apply the sum of PhP 3,180,000.00 being the Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC) to payments under the contract for the Supply, Installation and Commissioning of Forty (40) 3TR Air-condition Units and Dismantling of Existing Thirty (30) 5TR A/C Units at the PEZA Head Office, Bids received in excess of the ABC shall be automatically rejected at Bid opening.

The PEZA now invites Bids from eligible Bidders for *Supply, Installation and Commissioning of Forty (40) 3TR Air-conditioning Units and Dismantling of Thirty (30) 5 TR A/C Units at PEZA Head Office*. The description of an eligible Bidder is contained in Section II of the Bidding Documents, ITB.

Bidding will be conducted through open competitive bidding procedures using non-discretionary pass/fail criteria as specified in the Implementing Rules and Regulations Part A (IRR-A) of Republic Act 9184 (R.A. 9184), otherwise known as the "Government Procurement Reform Act," and is restricted to Filipino citizens/sole proprietorships, organizations with at least sixty percent (60%) interest or outstanding capital stock belonging to citizens of the Philippines, and to citizens or organizations of a country the laws or regulations of which grant similar rights or privileges to Filipino citizens, pursuant to Republic Act 5183 (R.A. 5183) and subject to Commonwealth Act 138 (C.A. 138). Only Bids from Bidders who pass the eligibility check will be opened. Prospective bidders should have experience in undertaking a similar project within the last three (3) years with an amount of at least 50% of the ABC. The process for the eligibility check is described in Section II of the Bidding Documents, ITB. The bidder with the Lowest Calculated Bid (LCB) shall advance to the post-qualification stage in order to finally determine responsiveness of the bid to technical and financial requirements of the project. The contract shall then be awarded to the Lowest Calculated and Responsive Bidder (LCRB) who was determined as such during the post-qualification procedure.

A complete set of Bidding Documents may be purchased by interested Bidders from 13 to 22 February 2006, 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. at the address below and upon payment of a nonrefundable fee in the amount of PhP 2,000.00 and submission of a certified copy of their G-EPS Certificate of Registration. The method of payment will be cash basis only. The Bidding Documents shall be received personally by the prospective Bidder or his authorized representative.

The *PEZA* will hold a Pre-Bid Conference open to all interested parties on 01 March 2006, 2:00 p.m. at the 6th Floor, Social Hall, PEZA Building, Roxas Boulevard corner San Luis St., Pasay City.

Bids and eligibility requirements must be delivered to the address below on or before 11:00 a.m. of 13 March 2006. All Bids must be accompanied by a Bid security in the form of GSIS Surety Bond in the amount of not less than 2.5% of the ABC or in the form of cash, certified check, cashier's check, bank draft or irrevocable letter of credit in the amount of not less than *1% of the ABC*. Late Bids shall not be accepted.

Bid opening shall be on 13 March 2006, 2:00 p.m. at the 6th Floor Social Hall, PEZA Bldg., Roxas Blvd. corner San Luis St., Pasay City. Bids will be opened in the presence of the Bidders' representatives who choose to attend.

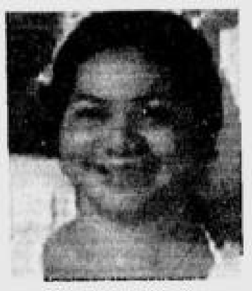
In case any of the above dates is declared a special non-working holiday, it will automatically be reset on the next working day.

The PEZA reserves the right to accept or reject any Bid, to annul the bidding process, and to reject all Bids at any time prior to contract award, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected Bidder or Bidders.

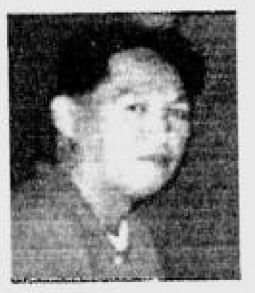
Philippine Economic Zone Authority
Bids and Awards Committee Secretariat
3/F PEZA Building, Roxas Boulevard corner San Luis St., Pasay City.
Tel. No. 891-6444 / Telefax No. 551-9587
e-mail: peza_bac_secretariat@yahoo.com
website: www.peza.gov.ph

(PDI–Feb. 10 & 17, 2006)

NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC



IRENE SAMSON



JERRY SORIANO

Please be informed that the persons whose names and pictures appear above have been separated from **MANPOWER RESOURCES OF ASIA, INC.** located at # 2598 DCL House Bldg. Manchas St. Brgy. Sta. Cruz, Makati City, telephone number 899-9958. **Any transactions made by either of them in behalf of MANPOWER RESOURCES OF ASIA, INC. shall not be entertained.**

(PDI – February 17, 2006)

NOTICE OF LOSS

Notice is hereby given that MARAPRI LAND DEV'T CORP. Stock Certificate Nos. 001 & 004 representing 6,666 shares issued in the name of MARIA LINA S. VELAYO were lost as per Affidavit of Loss dated 01-16-2006 of Notary Public Atty. Lope M. Velasco of Makati City as per Doc. No.26, Page No.07, Book No.62, Series of 2006. If no contest received new certificate will be issued.
(PDI- Jan. 20 & Feb. 3 & 17, 2006)

ANNOUNCEMENT

GARAGE SALE
Feb. 18 & 19 clothes, furn, appliances, toys, shoes, 54 Sct Torillo QC Call 928-0512

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SACRIFICE SALE

Location : United Parañaque Industrial Sub IV KM-18 West Service Road.
Lot Area : 5,378 Sq.M. more or less
Floor Area : 4,000 Sq.M. more or less, High Ceiling
Contact Person & Number : Benito Chua 5211430 / 5248668

INVESTMENT OPPORTUNITIES

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M. Suarez Ave.,
San Miguel, Pasig City
6437777/9001447
Look for Vince
(Wear black shoes and pants)

Republic of the Philippines
COMMISSION ON AUDIT
Regional Office No. 8
Candahug, Palo, Leyte

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID
PROCUREMENT OF SECURITY SERVICES

The Commission On Audit through its Bids and Awards Committee (BAC), invites contractors to apply for eligibility and to bid for the hereunder project.

Name of Project : Procurement of Security Services

One (1) – Senior Security rendering 12 hours – P 14,012.98 / month Duty daily on broken time
Nine (9) – Ordinary Security Guards 8 hours – P 9,577.58 / each-month Duty daily, each

Location : COA RO8, Candahug, Palo, Leyte
Approved Budget for the Contract : Php 1,547,327.28
Contract Duration : One Year

The Complete schedule of activities is listed, as follows:

ACTIVITIES	SCHEDULE
1. Issuance of Bid Documents	February 23 – March 10, 2006
2. Pre-Bid Conference	March 10, 2006, 8:30 a.m. COA RO8
3. Submission of Application for Eligibility and Bid Proposals	March 13 to March 24, 2006
4. Opening of Bids	March 24, 2006; 8:30 a.m. COA RO8
5. Bid Evaluation	March 25 – April 7, 2006
6. Post-qualification	April 10 – 20, 2006
7. Notice of Award	April 24, 2006

Prospective bidders should have experience in undertaking a similar project within the last two years with an amount of at least 50% of the proposed project for bidding. The eligibility check/Screening as well as the Preliminary Examination of Bids shall, use non-discretionary "pass/fail" criteria. Post-qualification of the lowest calculated bid shall be conducted.

All particulars relative to Eligibility Statement and Screening, Bid Security, Performance Security, Pre-bidding Conference, Evaluation of Bids, Post-Qualification and Award of Contract shall be governed by the pertinent provisions of R.A. 9184 and its Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR).

Bid documents will be available only to prospective bidders upon payment of a non-refundable amount of Php 700.00 to the COA RO8 Cashier.

The COA RO8 assumes no responsibility whatsoever to compensate or indemnify bidders for any expenses incurred in the preparation of the Bid.

(Sgd.) **NENA C. MACASA**
BAC Chairman

(PDI - February 17 & 23, 2006)

Republic of the Philippines
COMMISSION ON AUDIT
Regional Office No. 8
Candahug, Palo, Leyte

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID
SUPPLY AND DELIVERY OF VARIOUS IT EQUIPMENT, OFFICE & OTHER EQUIPMENT AND BOOKS

The Commission On Audit through its Bids and Awards Committee (BAC), invites suppliers to apply for eligibility and to bid for the hereunder project.

Name of Project : SUPPLY AND DELIVERY OF VARIOUS IT EQUIPMENT, OFFICE AND OTHER EQUIPMENT AND BOOKS
Location : COA RO8, Candahug, Palo, Leyte
Approved Budget for the Contract : Php3,579,700.00
Delivery Period : Within 15 days after acceptance of Purchase Order

Prospective bidders should have experience in undertaking a similar project within the last two years with an amount of at least 50% of the proposed project for bidding. The eligibility check/Screening as well as the Preliminary Examination of Bids shall, use non-discretionary "pass/fail" criteria. Post-qualification of the lowest calculated bid shall be conducted.

All particulars relative to Eligibility Statement and Screening, Bid Security, Performance Security, Pre-bidding Conference, Evaluation of Bids, Post-Qualification and Award of Contract shall be governed by the pertinent provisions of R.A. 9184 and its Implementing Rules and Regulation (IRR).

The complete schedule of activities is listed, as follows:

ACTIVITIES	SCHEDULE
1. Issuance of Bid Documents	February 23-March 10, 2006
2. Pre-Bid Conference	March 10, 2006, 1:30 p.m., COA RO8
3. Submission of Application for Eligibility and Bid Proposals	March 13 to March 24, 2006
4. Opening of Bids	March 24, 2006, 1:30 p.m., COA RO8
5. Bid Evaluation	March 25-April 7, 2006
6. Post-qualification	April 10-20, 2006
7. Notice of Award	April 24, 2006

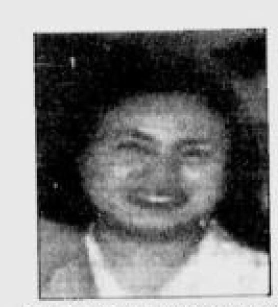
Bid documents will be available only to prospective bidders upon payment of a non-refundable amount of Php700.00 to the COA RO8 Cashier.

The COA RO8 assumes no responsibility whatsoever to compensate or indemnify bidders for any expenses incurred in the preparation of the Bid.

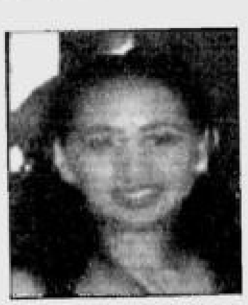
(Sgd.) **NENA C. MACASA**
BAC Chairman

(PDI–Feb. 17 & 23, 2006)

NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC



NATHALIE ANTIMANO



KAREN MIRANDA

Please be informed that the persons whose names and pictures appear above are no longer connected with **SEALANES MARINE SERVICES, INC.** located at 8/F Pryce Center Bldg., 1179 Chino Roces Avenue corner Bagtikan, Makati City, telephone number 899-9958. **Any transactions made by either of them in behalf of SEALANES MARINE SERVICES, INC. shall not be entertained.**

(PDI–Feb. 17, 2006)

More Classified Ads on Pages A17, A23, B6 & B8

PRE-NEED FIRM COURT UPDATE

Makati judge orders suspension of TPG payments

By Elizabeth L. Sanchez

A MAKATI REGIONAL Trial Court has allowed TPG Corp. to temporarily defer payments to its plan holders and creditors.

TPG, one of the country's top pre-need firms, sought the court's protection on Feb. 9 so it could acquire some breathing space to restructure its debt to plan holders.

It is the fourth such company to be rocked by financial problems, prompting it to file for corporate rehabilitation.

The other firms are TPG, along with Pacific Plans Inc., Platinum Plans, and College Assurance Plan.

Petition

In its petition to the court, TPG admitted that it would be unable to meet its debts to plan holders.

Judge Sixto Marella Jr. of Makati RTC Branch 138 on Feb. 14 issued the stay order after he found that TPG's petition for rehabilitation was "sufficient in form and substance."

With the stay order, TPG is prohibited from selling, transferring or disposing any of its properties, and making any payment of its outstanding liabilities.

The court also appointed lawyer Arthur Ponsaran as TPG's rehabilitation receiver.

A hearing on the petition is set for April 5.

Claims

According to TPG, claims covering the second semester of schoolyear 2005-2006 threaten to deplete its trust fund. TPG's trust fund assets are worth P900 million.

As of January 2006, pending claims for education and pension plans have reached P159.4 million. Of the total, claims for open-ended education plans amount to P81.9 million.

TPG has a total of 28,903 open-ended plan holders. Some 6,209 plan holders are set to make their claims for the present semester. There are also pending claims from pension plan holders worth roughly P28.97 million.

TPG is also facing claims from pre-terminated education and pension plans worth P46 million.

For schoolyear 2006-2007, claims from open-ended education plan holders are estimated to hit P200 million.

As of December 2005, TPG's cash is worth P149.9 million. Its total assets were pegged at P1.3 billion while total liabilities stood at P1.2 billion.

PHILIPPINE STOCK EXCHANGE

(As of Feb. 16, 2006)

Stocks	OPEN	HIGH	LOW	CLOSE	VOLUME
FINANCIAL					
BANKS					
Asiatrust Dev. Bank Inc.	3.35	3.35	3.35	3.35	2,000
Banco de Oro Univ. Bank	34.5	35	34.5	34.5	255,000
Bank of the Phil. Islands	58.5	58.5	58	58	2,680,700
China Banking Corp.	615	615	615	615	530
Citystate Savings Bank	19	19	19	19	300
Equitable PCI Bank Inc.	63	65	63	64.5	322,800
International Exch. Bank	22	22	22	22	1,546,000
Metropolitan Bank & Trust	33	33	32	33	797,600
Philippine National Bank	31	31	31	31	15,600
Rizal Comm. Banking Corp.	13.5	13.5	13.5	13.5	3,000
Security Bank Corp.	39	39	39	39	15,000
Union Bank of the Phil.	34.5	34.5	34.5	34.5	3,000
OTHER FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS					
Filipino Fund Inc.	3.7	3.7	3.7	3.7	24,000
First Metro Invest. Corp.	24.5	25	24.25	25	4,700
Manulife Financial Corp.	3230	3230	3230	3230	440
Phil. Stock Exchange Inc.	145	146	145	146	3,500
Sun Life Financial Inc.	2200	2205	2200	2205	5,740
Ivantage Corp.	0.7	0.73	0.7	0.73	5,240,000
INDUSTRIAL					
ELECTRICITY, ENERGY, POWER & WATER					
First Gen Corp.	46	46	45.5	45.5	652,000
First Phil Hldgs Corp.	41.5	43	41.5	42.5	338,800
Manila Electric Co. A	13.25	13.5	13.25	13.25	49,200
Manila Electric Co. B	19.5	19.75	19.5	19.5	358,200
Manila Water Co. Inc.	6.3	6.3	6.2	6.3	640,000
Petron Corp.	4.55	4.65	4.55	4.6	1,130,000
East Asia Power Res. Corp.	0.22	0.225	0.22	0.22	470,000
Trans-Asia Oil and Energy	0.93	0.93	0.93	0.93	530,000
FOOD, BEVERAGE & TOBACCO					
CADP Group Corp.	1.3	1.3	1.3	1.3	49,000
Cosmos Bottling Corp.	3	3	3	3	2,000
Ginebra San Miguel Inc.	20.75	20.75	20.75	20.75	12,500
Jollibee Foods Corp.	35.5	35.5	35	35.5	173,600
Liberty Flour Mills Inc.	16	16	16	16	17,200
Pancake House Inc.	3.6	3.6	3.6	3.6	100,000
Roxas Holdings Inc.	1.86	1.86	1.84	1.84	345,000
San Miguel Corp. A	61.5	62	61.5	62	58,900
San Miguel Corp. B	83	83	82.5	83	101,900
Universal Robina Corp.	19	19	18.25	18.5	6,207,300
Vitarich Corp.	0.29	0.29	0.29	0.29	700,000
CONSTRUCTION, INFRASTRUCTURE & ALLIED SERVICES					
Southeast Asian Cement	0.31	0.31	0.3	0.31	1,260,000
Engineering Equip. Inc.	1.36	1.36	1.32	1.36	6,518,000
Interphil Labs Inc. A	0.8	0.8	0.8	0.8	30,000
Metro Alliance Holdings	0.36	0.36	0.36	0.36	50,000
Mabuhay Vinyl Corp.	0.75	0.75	0.75	0.75	200,000
DIVERSIFIED INDUSTRIALS					
Global Equities Inc.	0.0725	0.0725	0.0725	0.0725	300,000
Panasonic Mfg Phil Corp.	6.5	6.5	6.5	6.5	6,000
Steniel Manufacturing	0.19	0.21	0.19	0.21	830,000
HOLDING FIRMS					
Abacus Con Res & Hdg A	0.008	0.008	0.008	0.008	11,000,000
Ayala Corp.	332.5	332.5	325	327.5	65,810
Alsons Cons. Res. Inc.	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	200,000
Aboitiz Equity Ventures	4.85	5	4.85	4.95	697,000
Ajo.Net Holdings Inc.	0.023	0.025	0.023	0.024	8,300,000
A. Soriano Corp.	2.34	2.38	2.32	2.34	582,000
APC Group Inc.	0.205	0.205	0.205	0.205	150,000
Anglo Phil Holdings Corp.	0.87	0.88	0.87	0.87	250,000
ATN Holdings Inc.	1.72	1.72	1.7	1.7	79,000
ATN Holdings Inc. B	1.86	1.86	1.84	1.84	56,000
Balabac Resources & Hldgs	0.7	0.7	0.7	0.7	50,000
Bacnotan Cons Indus Inc.	8.8	8.8	8.8	8.8	12,000
Benpres Holdings Corp.	0.98	0.99	0.98	0.99	2,170,000
DMCI Holdings Inc.	3.1	3.1	3.1	3.1	468,000
Filinvest Dev. Corp.	1.54	1.56	1.52	1.52	5,292,000
JG Summit Holdings Inc.	5.1	5.1	4.95	5	2,880,000
Mabuhay Holdings Corp.	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	300,000
Pacifica	0.01	0.013	0.01	0.012	90,000,000
Prime Orion Phils. Inc.	0.235	0.235	0.235	0.235	1,850,000
Solid Group Inc.	0.52	0.52	0.52	0.52	2,780,000
Sinophil Corp.	0.135	0.14	0.135	0.14	2,810,000
SM Investments Corp.	221	221	219	221	46,000
South China Resources Inc.	0.82	0.82	0.78	0.78	90,000
Seafront Resources Corp.	0.37	0.37	0.37	0.37	30,000
Unioil Res. & Holdings Co	0.0625	0.0625	0.0625	0.0625	3,900,000
Wellex Industries Inc.	0.13	0.135	0.13	0.13	2,000,000
PROPERTY					
Ayala Land Inc.	10.25	10.5	10.25	10.25	6,130,400
Belle Corp.	0.99	0.99	0.98	0.99	2,090,000
Crown Equities Inc.	0.25	0.25	0.24	0.24	1,440,000
Cebu Holdings Inc.	1.56	1.64	1.54	1.62	10,895,000
C&P Homes Inc.	1.8	1.8	1.8	1.8	39,000
Cebu Prop. Vent. A	0.75	0.75	0.75	0.75	450,000
Cebu Prop. Vent B	0.88	0.88	0.88	0.88	210,000
Cyber Bay Corp.	0.215	0.22	0.215	0.22	1,320,000
EIB Realty Developers Inc.	0.24	0.24	0.235	0.235	140,000
Empire East Land Inc.	0.45	0.45	0.45	0.45	1,390,000
Ever-Gotesco Resources	0.024	0.024	0.024	0.024	100,000
Fairmont Holdings Inc.	0.7	0.7	0.7	0.7	270,000
Filinvest Land Inc.	1.5	1.5	1.48	1.48	1,683,000
Kuok Phil. Properties	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	2,150,000
Marsteel Cons. Inc. B	0.019	0.019	0.019	0.019	1,000,000
Megaworld Corp.	1.38	1.38	1.38	1.38	12,877,000
Metro Pacific Corp.	0.33	0.33	0.32	0.33	5,440,000
MRC Allied Ind. Inc.	0.185	0.21	0.185	0.2	8,460,000
Primex Corp.	3.6	3.6	3.6	3.6	30,000
Robinsons Land Corp.	6.7	6.7	6.4	6.5	53,000
Phil Realty and Holdings	0.19	0.19	0.18	0.185	5,120,000
SM Prime Holdings Inc.	7.9	8	7.9	7.9	250,000
Uniwide Holdings Inc.	0.15	0.15	0.14	0.14	9,140,000
SERVICE					
MEDIA					
ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corp.	10.75	10.75	10.5	10.5	12,200
TELECOMMUNICATIONS					
Digital Telecom Phils Inc.	0.89	0.9	0.89	0.9	650,000
Globe Telecom Inc.	755	775	755	770	73,930
Pilipino Tel. Corp.	3.1	3.2	3.1	3.2	786,000
Phil. Long Dis Tel Co.	1770	1770	1760	1760	66,180
INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY					
Boulevard Holdings Inc.	0.16	0.16	0.16	0.16	2,500,000
Imperial Res.	0.011	0.015	0.011	0.014	104,400,000
Imperial Res. B	0.016	0.016	0.016	0.016	200,000
Island Info and Tech Inc.	0.044	0.045	0.044	0.045	6,500,000
Ism Communications Corp.	0.055	0.055	0.0525	0.0525	10,300,000
Transpacific Broadband	1.42	1.42	1.42	1.42	150,000
Philweb Corp.	0.029	0.029	0.027	0.028	83,200,000
TRANSPORTATION SERVICES					
Aboitiz Trans. Sys. Corp.	1.66	1.66	1.66	1.66	6,000
Int'l Container Term'l Sv	11.75	11.75	11.75	11.75	130,300
Keppel Phils. Marine Inc.	0.77	0.77	0.77	0.77	350,000
Lorenzo Shipping Corp.	1.26	1.26	1.26	1.26	2,000
HOTEL & LEISURE					
Acesite Phils Hotel Corp.	4.5	4.5	4.5	4.5	5,000
Leisure & Resorts Corp.	1.76	1.84	1.76	1.82	12,813,000
Waterfront Phils. Inc.	0.38	0.4	0.38	0.4	1,700,000
EDUCATION					
Centro Escolar University	8.7	8.7	8.7	8.7	4,000
Ipeople Inc.	3.25	3.25	3.25	3.25	25,000
DIVERSIFIED SERVICES					
Jardine Davies Inc.	22	22	22	22	2,000
Paxys Inc.	7.7	7.7	7.7	7.7	235,000
MINING & OIL					
MINING					
Apex Mining Co. Inc. A	1	1.02	1	1.02	160,000
Apex Mining Co. Inc. B	1.28	1.28	1.24	1.24	151,000
Abra Mining & Industrial	0.0065	0.0065	0.0065	0.0065	44,000,000
Atlas Cons. Min & Dev't	6	6.1	6	6	478,000
Benguet Corp. A	6.6	6.6	6.6	6.6	33,000
Lepanto Cons Mng. Co. A	0.22	0.22	0.215	0.215	5,080,000
Lepanto Cons. Mng. Co B	0.26	0.26	0.26	0.26	1,000,000
Manila Mining Corp. A	0.018	0.018	0.017	0.017	117,400,000
Manila Mining Corp. B	0.026	0.026	0.026	0.026	167,100,000
Omico Corp.	0.0055	0.0055	0.0055	0.0055	10,000,000
Philex Mining Corp. A	1.72	1.72	1.68	1.68	4,194,000
Philex Mining Corp. B	1.84	1.86	1.8	1.8	2,485,000
Semirara Mining Corp.	28	28	27.5	27.5	176,500
Vulcan Ind'l	0.35	0.35	0.35	0.35	50,000
OIL					
Basic Consolidated Inc.	0.195	0.195	0.19	0.19	600,000
Oriental Pet. & Min. A	0.0075	0.0075	0.0075	0.0075	55,000,000
Oriental Pet. & Min. B	0.008	0.0085	0.008	0.008	41,000,000
The Philodrill Corp. A	0.44	0.46	0.44	0.46	370,000
The Philodrill Corp. B	0.46	0.48	0.46	0.48	170,000
Petroenergy Res. Corp.	3.95	3.95	3.9	3.9	40,000
PREFERRED					
PLDT (10% Pref) Series W	10.75	10.75	10.75	10.75	2,400
PLDT (10% Pref) Series X	10.75	10.75	10.75	10.75	100
PLDT (10% Pref) Series Y	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	1,500
PLDT (10% Pref) Series Z	10.75	10.75	10.75	10.75	400
PLDT 10% Pref Series Aa	10.75	10.75	10.75	10.75	3,200
WARRANTS, PHIL. DEPOSIT RECEIPTS, ETC.					
ABS-CBN Hldgs. Corp. (Pdr)	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5.	51,000

Stocks ...

From page B1

overnight by new Federal Reserve Chair Ben Bernanke.

The Philippine Stock Exchange composite index rose 2.33 points to 2,076.42 after trading between 2,072.38 and 2,079.64. Volume was 910.96 million shares worth P873.96 million.

The broader all-shares index gained 1.16 points to 988.46. Gainers and losers were even at 43 each, with 57 stocks unchanged. *AFP*

CURRENCIES

February 16, 2006

Country	Unit	Euro Equivalent	Dollar Equivalent	Peso Equivalent
United States	Dollar	0.841255	1.000000	51.5500
Japan	Yen	0.007138	0.008485	0.4374
United Kingdom	Pound	1.464625	1.741000	89.7486
Hong Kong	Dollar	0.108392	0.128846	6.6420
Canada	Dollar	0.726473	0.863558	44.5164
Singapore	Dollar	0.516551	0.614024	31.6529
Australia	Dollar	0.622599	0.740083	38.1513
Bahrain	Dinar*	2.232334	2.653576	136.7918
Saudi Arabia	Rial	0.224335	0.266667	13.7467
Brunei	Dollar	0.514970	0.612145	31.5561
Indonesia	Rupiah	0.000092	0.000109	0.0056
Thailand	Baht	0.021390	0.025426	1.3107
UAE	Dirham	0.229056	0.272279	14.0360
Euro	Euro	1.000000	1.188700	61.2775
Argentina	Peso	0.274247	0.325998	16.8052
Brazil	Real	0.394956	0.469484	24.2019
Denmark	Kroner	0.134009	0.159297	8.2118
India	Rupee	0.019054	0.022650	1.1676
Malaysia	Ringgit	0.226083	0.268745	13.8538
Mexico	New Peso	0.079842	0.094908	4.8925
New Zealand	Dollar	0.568339	0.675584	34.8264
South Africa	Rand	0.138763	0.164948	8.5031
Korea	Won	0.000866	0.001029	0.0530
Taiwan	Nt Dollar	0.026046	0.030961	1.5960

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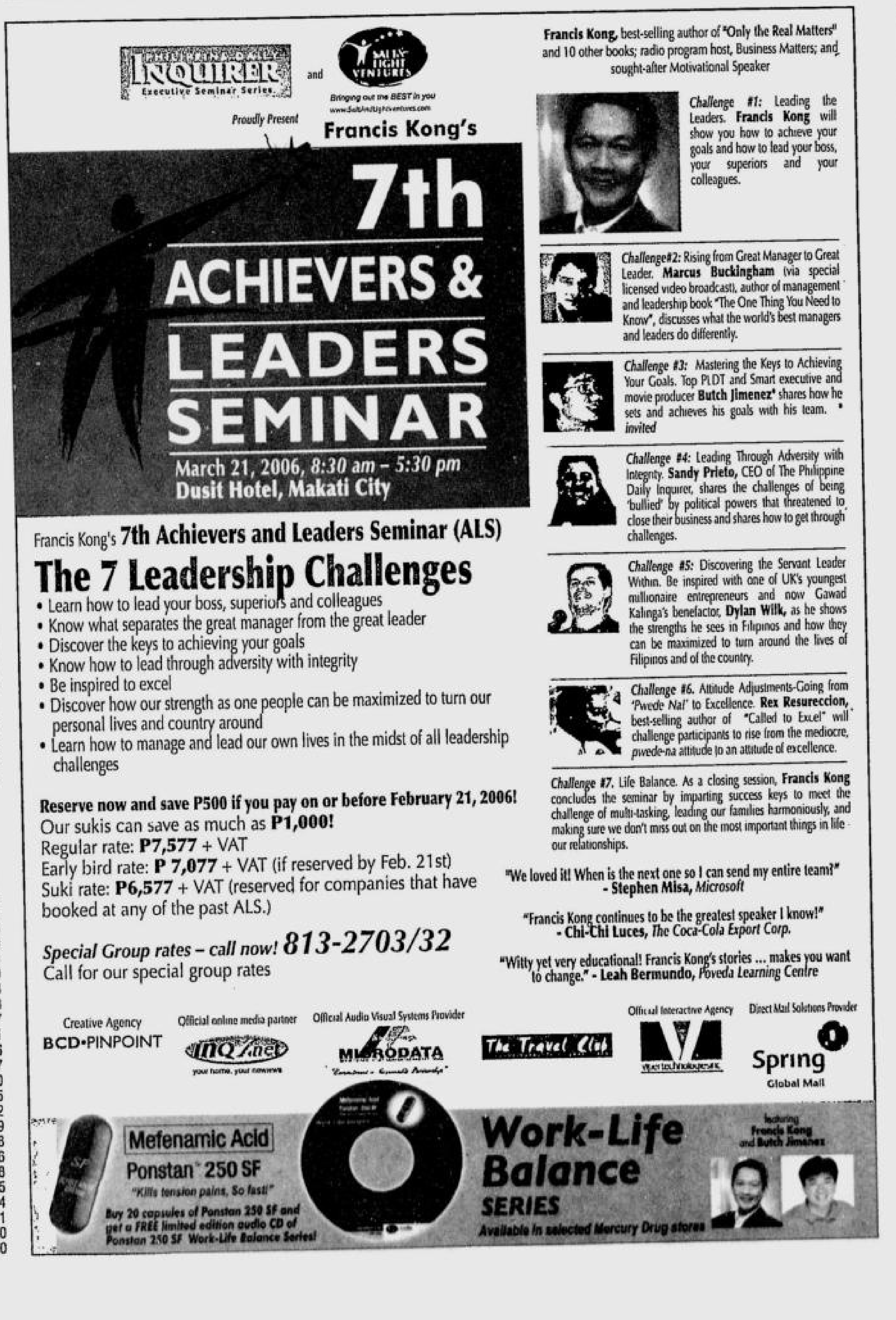
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Challenge#2: Rising from Great Manager to Great Leader. **Marcus Buckingham** (via special licensed video broadcast), author of management and leadership book "The One Thing You Need to Know", discusses what the world's best managers and leaders do differently.

Challenge #3: Mastering the Keys to Achieving Your Goals. Top PLDT and Smart executive and movie producer **Butch Jimenez*** shares how he sets and achieves his goals with his team. * *invited*

Challenge #4: Leading Through Adversity with Integrity. **Sandy Prieto,** CEO of The Philippine Daily Inquirer, shares the challenges of being 'bullied' by political powers that threatened to close their business and shares how to get through challenges.

Challenge #5: Discovering the Servant Leader Within. Be inspired with one of UK's youngest millionaire entrepreneurs and now Gawad Kalinga's benefactor, **Dylan Wilk,** as he shows the strengths he sees in Filipinos and how they can be maximized to turn around the lives of Filipinos and of the country.

Challenge #6. Attitude Adjustments-Going from 'Pwede Na!' to Excellence. **Rex Resureccion,** best-selling author of "Called to Excel" will challenge participants to rise from the mediocre, *pwede-na* attitude to an attitude of excellence.

Challenge #7. Life Balance. As a closing session, **Francis Kong** concludes the seminar by imparting success keys to meet the challenge of multi-tasking, leading our families harmoniously, and making sure we don't miss out on the most important things in life - our relationships.

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"Witty yet very educational! Francis Kong's stories ... makes you want to change." **- Leah Bermundo,** *Poveda Learning Centre*

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USAID
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PRISM
PRIVATE SECTOR MOBILIZATION FOR FAMILY PLANNING

The Private Sector Mobilization for Family Planning (PRISM), a project funded by the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) under contract number 492-C-00-04-00036-00 and implemented by a consortium led by Chemonics International, Inc. is soliciting offers for:

Conduct of Rapid Assessment of the Autonomous Region of Muslim Mindanao For Private Sector Involvement In Family Planning

Background

The PRISM Project supports USAID/Philippines' Strategic Objective 3, *desired family size and improved health sustainably achieved*, focusing on three components: 1) increased **workplace** support for family planning (FP) services and referrals, 2) establishment of viable, mass **market** brands of hormonal contraceptives, and 3) increased business value of FP among **private practice** providers.

The implementation of carefully selected PRISM strategic activities outlined in the work plans of the three technical components, are carried out in geographic areas, e.g., provinces or cities, and called strategic intervention areas (SIAs). The SIAs are conceived as the laboratory for PRISM project staff, its consortium partners, and the area-based partners to ensure that synchronization of component strategies and the convergence of the project component activities will result to the motivation and capacity of the private sector to market, sell, and distribute competitive FP products and services.

The objective of this procurement is to solicit responsive offers from qualified, responsible Philippine-based research/consulting companies/firms, foundations, or non-government organizations (hereafter referred to as "Offeror") for the conduct of "Rapid Assessment of the Autonomous Region of Muslim Mindanao for Private Sector Involvement in Family Planning". The primary objective of the rapid assessment is to scan the local environment and identify opportunities and constraints as well as potential partners for the effective implementation of the three project component activities.

Qualification Requirements

- Must be a Philippine or US-based research/consulting companies/firms, foundations, or non-government organizations
- Must be in operation for the past 3 years and have relevant experience in ARMM
- Must have a team of qualified personnel to manage and execute the project.
- Must have a positive net worth for 2004 or 2005 whichever is applicable

For a copy of the Request for Proposal, please get in touch with Mr. Roldan B. Ramos, Subcontracts Specialist at tel/fax. no. (02) 635-2397 local 226 or email: rramos@prism.org.ph. Interested parties may also download a copy of the RFP at http://health.groups.yahoo.com/group/PRISMContracts/

The deadline for submission of proposals is on or **before 5:00 P.M, Monday, March 17, 2006**. Please see RFP for instructions on proposal submission.

Questions on RFP must be submitted not later than March 10, 2006 by e-mail or fax at the attention of Mr. Roldan Ramos. The answers will be posted at the PRISM Contracts yahoo groups or sent to all parties who requested a copy of the RFP through e-mail.

Outsource industry seen growing

Experts expect 2006 revenues to exceed the $2-billion level

By Ronnel W. Domingo

INCREASED INVESTOR CONFIDENCE in the country is expected to drive further growth of revenues, investments and workforce in the local information technology-enabled service sector.

Ernest L. Cu, director of the Business Processing Association of the Philippines, yesterday said the sector's estimated total revenues of $1.83 billion in 2005 would likely grow by 50 percent this year.

"The workforce engaged in Ites numbering some 162,000 is seen to increase by 51 percent in 2006," Cu said.

Citing Board of Investments estimates, Cu said Ites investments were expected to increase 40 percent from P11 billion last year.

Cu presented an industry report before a CEO Forum during the opening of the two-day e-Services Philippines 2006 being held at the Edsa Shangri-La Hotel in Mandaluyong City.

ESP 2006, dubbed the 6th Outsourcing Conference and Exhibition, gathered leading industry experts and executives as resource persons.

Speaking for the local Ites industry umbrella group, Cu said the country remained the most favored location for offshore business process outsourcing ventures, after India.

He said the Philippines enjoyed increased confidence from the international community due to lessened political instability, the country's improved credit rating and the emergence of cities outside Metro Manila as competitive locations for BPO.

"However, the industry continues to face labor resource challenges because labor rates are increasing faster than inflation," Cu said.

Aside from that, he said the industry needed to move up the value chain and offer more complex services considering the rise of lower-value competition from China, Vietnam and Eastern Europe.

Cu recommended for the industry as well as the government to develop other offshore "hotspots," especially secondary cities that have ample supply of qualified college graduates, like Dumaguete in the Visayas.

He explained that a continued concentration of businesses in Metro Manila would lead to unfavorable rates of increase in wages and higher attrition of workers.

Also, Cu said industry players should move beyond call centers and foster the development of the non-voice sector, such as BPO operations involved in animation, software development and data transcription.

"Further, we should all take the effort to increase (global) awareness about the Philippines as an outsourcing haven," he said.

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INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The Land Bank of the Philippines invites suppliers/manufacturers/distributors/contractors to apply for eligibility and to bid for the projects as stated below:

ITB No.	Item / Description	Approved Budget	Source of Funds
2006-018	150 Units Modem	P 2,250,000.00	LBP Funds

Prospective bidders should have experience in undertaking a similar project within the last two (2) years with an amount of at least 50% of the proposed project for bidding. The Eligibility Check/Screening as well as the Preliminary Examination of Bids shall use non-discretionary "pass/fail" criteria. Post qualification of the lowest calculated bid shall be conducted.

Bidding for the above requirements is scheduled on March 15, 2006 at 1:00 PM and pertinent Bid Documents may be obtained from the General Services Department, 25th Floor, LANDBANK Plaza, M. H del Pilar corner Dr. Quintos Streets, Malate, Manila, **upon payment of a non-refundable fee of P1,000.00.**

Interested suppliers are requested to attend the Pre-Bid Conference scheduled on **March 2, 2006** at the 25th Floor, Conference Room, LANDBANK Plaza, Malate, Manila.

All particulars relative to **Eligibility Statement and Screening, Bid Security, Performance Security, Pre-Bidding Conference(s), Evaluation of Bids, Post Qualification and Award of Contract** shall be governed by the pertinent provisions of **RA 9184 and its Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR).**

LANDBANK reserves the right to reject any or all bids, declare the bidding a failure or waive any required formality therein and make an award to the bidder whose bid is the most advantageous to the Bank.

BIDS AND AWARDS COMMITTEE

(PDI–Feb. 17 & 24, 2006)

Basic sells unit to Forum firm

By Abigail L. Ho

LISTED FIRM BASIC CONSOLIDATED INC. (BCI) has agreed to sell its entire stake in subsidiary Basic Petroleum and Minerals Inc. (BPMI) to British-Canadian joint venture Forum Energy Plc. for $17 million.

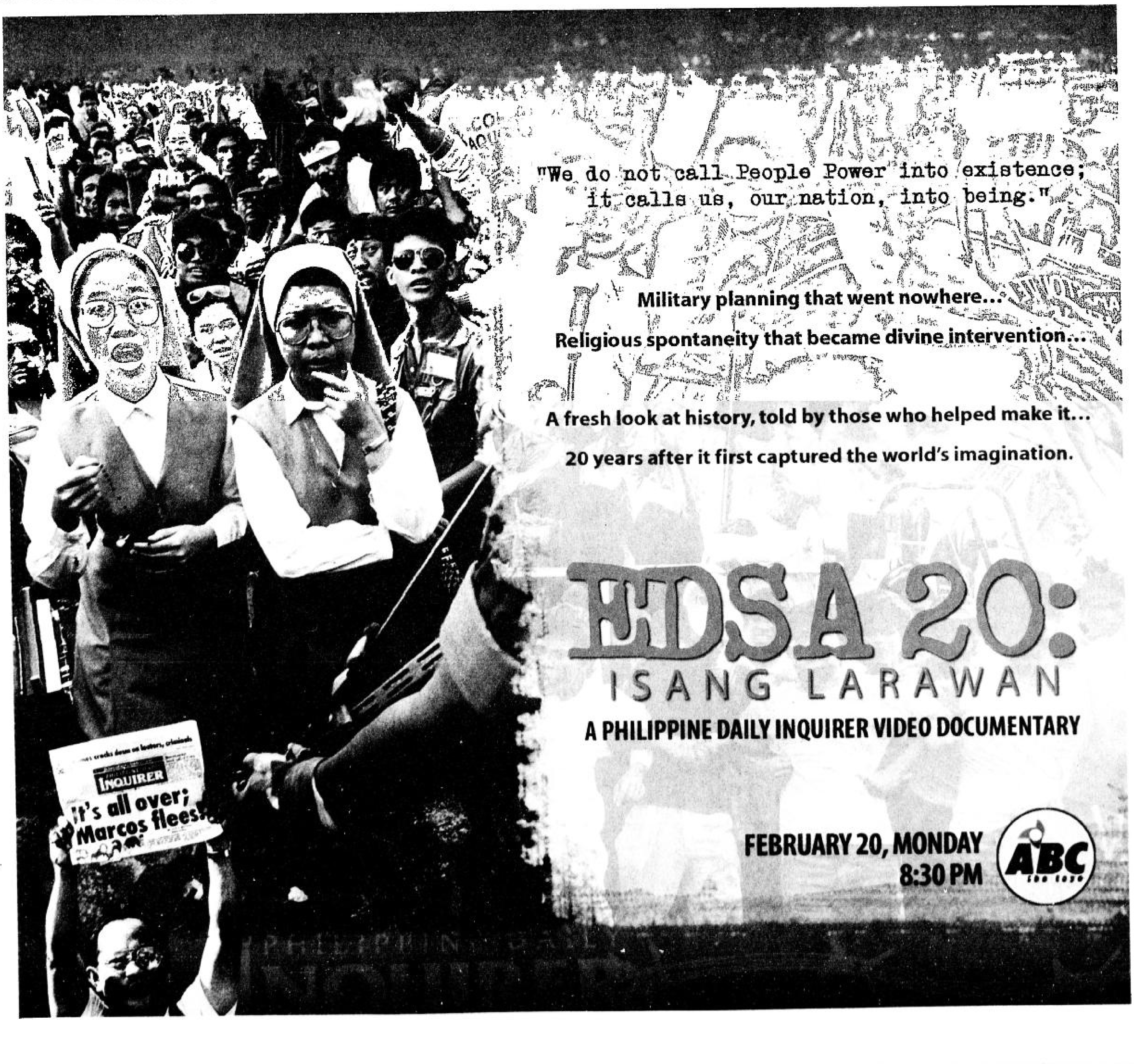
In a disclosure to the Philippine Stock Exchange yesterday, BCI said its board of directors on Feb. 15 approved the sale and purchase agreement (SPA), which, upon stockholders' approval, provided for Forum Energy's acquisition of BCI's 500 million shares of stock in BPMI.

The company said it was selling the unit to consolidate and generate investment funds for its oil and gas projects and other viable businesses.

Under the SPA, the $17-million will be paid in stages.

Of the $17 million, $5 million worth of cash and Forum Energy shares will be given to BCI.

BPMI owns participating interest and/or cost recovery accounts in Service Contract (SC) 14 in Northwest Palawan, SC 6-A and 6-B also in Northwest Palawan, SC 41 in Sandakan Basin, SC 42 in Northwest Palawan and Geophysical Survey and Exploration Contract (GSEC) 94 in offshore West Palawan.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PHILIPPINE SCIENCE HIGH SCHOOL SYSTEM

Agham Road, Diliman, Quezon City

The Philippine Science High School System of the Department of Science and Technology announces the successful qualifiers of the **2006 Search for PSHS Scholars.** 803 examinees of the 17,389 applicants successfully hurdled the rigid two - step screening administered on October 15, 2005 and December 10, 2005, respectively. The PSHS System has nine (9) campuses all over the country. The qualifiers will be notified directly by their respective campuses or they may get in touch with the Director of the PSHS Campus where they qualified for more information.

THE PSHS CAMPUSES:

1. **MAIN CAMPUS**
   Agham Road, Diliman, Quezon City
   Tel. No.: (02) 926-5701/924-0614/929-1606
   www.pshs.edu.ph
2. **ILOCOS REGION CAMPUS**
   Poblaacion, San Ildelfonso, Ilocos Sur
   Tel. No.: (077) 726-4190/323-2677
3. **CAGAYAN VALLEY CAMPUS**
   NVSIT Compound, Bayombong, Nueva Vizcaya
   Tel. No.: (078) 321-2843/321-2280
4. **BICOL REGION CAMPUS**
   Tagontong, Goa,Camarines Sur
   Tel. No.: (054) 453-1538
5. **WESTERN VISAYAS CAMPUS**
   Lawaan H. Lopez Campus, Brgy. Bito-on, Jaro District, Iloilo City
   Tel. No.: (033) 329-5644
6. **CENTRAL VISAYAS CAMPUS**
   Talaytay, Argao, Cebu c/o PSHS System-Admissions Office
   Agham Road, Diliman, Quezon City
   Tel. No.: (02) 926-5701
7. **EASTERN VISAYAS CAMPUS**
   Pawing, Palo, Leyte
   Tel. No.: (053) 524-9129
8. **SOUTHERN MINDANAO CAMPUS**
   Sto. Niño, Tugbok District, Mintal, Davao City
   Tel. No.: (082) 293-0004/293-0002
9. **CENTRAL MINDANAO CAMPUS**
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The PSHS scholars get a monthly stipend in addition to free tuition and free loan of textbooks. Uniform, transportation and living allowances are also given according to financial need. Scholars are expected to meet highest standard of scholastic achievement and behavior.

Application forms for the National Competitive Examinations for SY 2007 – 2008 will be available on June 15, 2006. For more information, you may call the following telephone nos.: (02) 926-5701 / 924-0614.

The new scholars for SY 2006 – 2007 are:

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ABES, ELSIE ERIKA CRUZ
ADLAON, CHRISTINE DIMPNA REPALBOR
AGUPITAN, ARIELLE DECASA
AHERRERA, ATHENA DIMATULAC
ALBA, BIANCA CHRISTINA SALVOSA
ALEGRE, ANDREA YU
ALMIRANTE, JOAQUIN CARLOS FOJAS
ALTAMERA, SHARI ABOLTIVO
ANGANGCO, CATHERINE MARIE GUERRERO
ANGELES, NEIL PATRICK CASPE
APILADO, JUSTIN RAPHAEL JAMIAS
AQUINO, GABRIEL DUKE BRYAN TUTANES
ARELLANO, GINO MARTIN TIRO
ASTROLOGO, NEIL CHRISTIAN NOVENCIDO
ATAS, CELESTE BERAYON
AUSTRIA, FERNANDO II JAVIER
AYDINAN, MACLING GABRIEL QUEIPO
AYROSO, ELVIS JEREMY DY JUANCO
BALUYOT, LYNDON MARCUS BOLAÑOS
BATACLAN, CHARLES CHRISTOPHER CARCAMO
BATERINA, MERLYNN MYRTH TAVAS
BAYUDAN, BEATRIZ RAINE LUIS
BEGONIA, ADRIAN FERNANDEZ
BELEN, MARIELLE BERNADETTE MARALIT
BERCERO, ALEC GEDRICK ANGELES
BIHAG, JAN AUREO BARRERA
BONIFACIO, JOSE PAOLO MARIA ZETA
BRAZA, POCHOLO PORRAS
BUENCAMINO, GREGORIO MARTIN CENTENERA
BUGAYONG, EULA FRANCES IMPAS
CABALLES, RAPHAEL DE LA CRUZ
CACBAY, JASPER ELLIS DEO TUGADE
CACHERO, NATHANIEL CONTRERAS
CACHUELA, JAN ARVIN AVILA
CAGUIOA, ISABEL ASSUNTA CRUCENA
CANOY, ARMAND HENZKEL BANGOLAN
CARAG, CAMILLA MIA RUSTIA
CARANGAN, JED MANUEL MATERIALES
CARIGARA, JAN MICHAEL SIBAYAN
CARREON, LOURDES PATRICIA LACHICA
CASTELLANO, LEONY LYN TRABALLO
CASTILLO, JEZREEL CELESTRE
CASTRO, ALFRED LABASANO
CATBAGAN, KEVIN CHRISTOPHER REPANE
CATIBOG, BRIANNE JAMES RAYALA
CENTENO, FATIMA MARIE MONTEAGUDO
CENTINO, ANDONI REX SUCALIT
CHING, JOHN KENNETH ENOT
CHUA, JAYMARI DEL ROSARIO
CLEMENT, THERESE MARGARET COBAR
CO TING KEH, LANCE ONG-SIONG
CO, MICHELLE ALEXIS TAN
CORPUZ, KEVIN ESCOSIO
CORSIGA, JOVICK DARJE VALLES
CORTEZ, JANA LAINE TENIOZO
CRISPINO, MARWIN GIRON
CRISTOBAL, CARLO DAVID DIMASIN
CUETO, BRANDON CORUÑA
DACANAY, JESUS ALFONSO TANGLAO
DAILISAN, DAMIAN NALE
DATU, BEATRIZ KAY DELA CRUZ
DE ASIS, ANGELO GABRIEL DE GUZMAN
DE GUZMAN, JOHN MARK UY
DE LAYOLA, LLOGENE BUENAFE
DE VILLA, ALMIRA BILANG
DEALINO, MARTHA ISABEL SALOMON
DEL CASTILLO, FELIPE LUARCA
DEL ROSARIO, FRANCISCO LUIS ACIO
DELA PAZ, GIDEON JOHN TIAMSING
DESOLOC, CHRISTIAN JESSIE LABIDE
DIAL, MIGUEL ENRICO DELARMENTE
DIZON, JOSHUA GREGOR ATILANO
DUMAYAG, JUSTIN PAUL DE GUZMAN
ENCARNACION, IMMANUEL VICTORIA
ENCARNACION, JOB IMMANUEL BIARES
ERSANDO, JUAN FRANCISCO SOLINA
ESGUERRA, CHRISTIAN ANDREW TANAEL
ESGUERRA, JOHN CHRISTIAN SALANIO
ESTANISLAO, RAFAEL DEO FERRER
ESTRADA, LUIS GABRIEL ALFONSO RAQUEL
EVANGELISTA, CARA THERESE ECHEVARRIA
FAJARDO, JETHRO JEAN RELATIVO
FERNANDO, DON LAWRENCE CARL AGAPITO
FERREOL, MICHELLE DENISE LEE
FONTANILLA, CHRISTIAN EMMANUEL MARBELLA
FRANCIA, JOSHUA FLORENTINE PASCUAL
GABO, EUGENE PAOLO ACLE
GALIDO, ALDON CRIS BERADOR
GALLARDO, JETHRO OROCEO
GAMMAD, NIKKO SAN ANTONIO
GARCIA, JAMES RAINIER MEDALLA
GARCIA, VINCE CARLO CUENCA
GATDULA, JAN REYNALD PARANAL
GO, PATRICK JOHN LASAP
GOMEZ, RAINIER GOMEZ
GONZALES, RYAN CHRISTOPHER TUPAS
GRECIA, LORDOM RENO CLAUD
GREGORIO, MICHAIA BEA AUDIJE
GUADALQUIVER, JEFF HEIN AGUADO
GUERRERO, JESUS LORENZO IBARRA
GUEVARA, JOSE MARIA SEGARRA
GUEVARRA, JENARD ALVAREZ
GUILOREZA, REA FAYE JOY SIMBRE
GUION, GINAREY GRACE ANN SARMIENTO
HIZON, JOSE MARIA FELIX
IMPERIAL, JAMES FRANCIS LEGASPINO
INGCO, KEVIN PATAWARAN
JAMERLAN, MA. CHRISTINA MOSCOSO
JAVIER, JAIME LUCAS FELIMON CADAG
JIMENEZ, KOSHNEIR SARTE
JOSE, ESTELLE DIANE DECENA
JOSE, JUAN PAULO VEGA
JUAT, PAUL FRANCIS BROWN
KASILAG, KRISTOFFER KING PIA
KAYANAN, DAVID ROMAN ESPIRITU
KU, RAPHAEL LESMOND CHENG
KWAN, JUSTIN RAPHAEL TINGZON
LACANILAO, JONATHAN PAUL BERNARDO
LASCO, ALBERTO MIGUEL VALIENTE
LIM, RACHELLE LAUREN ARTAOI
LIMPIADO, MARC ARTHUR JORDAN IRLANDEZ
LISTANO, JIL FAITH MONCAYO
LOGRONIO, ALVIN JAURIGUE
LOMETILLO, JULIAN DIEGO MIRAVITE
LOPEZ, LORENZO ELIAS CABURIAN
LUNA, ALVIN RAYMUND LOPEZ
MACAHIG, NICO ANGELO SARMIENTO
MACARAIG, JOSE RAY NICCOLO ENCARNACION
MACASPAC, FRANCO EMIL OLAIVAR
MAGSALIN, JOHN DANIEL JASARENO
MALAPIT, JOSHUA REGINALD PASTRANA
MANALO, AGNES LIM
MANALO, MICAH EARL MENDOZA
MANUEL, KIM MANALO
MARANAN, MA. LOUNIE BAWIGA
MARELLA, JOSE MARIA LONTOC
MARQUEZ, MARION ROSE PUNZALAN
MATEO, FEMINA MARGARET BALTAR
MATHAY, ADRIENNE ANGARA
MEDINA, HENRY JR YALUNG
MEDINA, MARIA SOCORRO SEVILLA
MELLIZA, FRENTE SUR LABISTE
MELOSANTOS, DION PALADIO
MENDOZA, ROCELLE PATRICIA BUENCONSEJO
MENDOZA, TEI ALTHEUS MAYORALGO
MORA, TIMOTHY JOHN SANTOS
NAKANO, REIICHIRO CHRISTIAN SAPALARAN
NALANGAN, CHRISTABEL TABING
NAPOLITANO, ARDEE SORIANO
NAVARRO, JOSEPH MONICO SISON
NEGRE, JULIA RIO THERESE MARTINEZ
NEODAMA, KELVIN EMMANUEL
NG, JOEL SAVIER LIM
NOGALES, ERNEST NATHAN LIM
NOLASCO, NIKKO ABIOG
NUNES, RHETT ABRAM A.
ODRADA, MA. JOENELLE GRACE PRESENTE
OH, JACQUELINE JOYCE HWANG
OLEGA, CONRAD MARCO EGAMINO
OLIVEROS, DIANE FRANCESCA ACUÑA
OLPOC, PAULINE CLEO ADAL
ONGUE, CLINT DREXEL MANOSA
PABROQUEZ, RANDELL BENTILLO
PADERANGA, MARCO NOEL CORTES
PAGOBAYAN, ELKAN JOEL MENDIOLA
PANGILINAN, MIA BERNARDO
PARABUAC, MIGUEL LUIS AQUINO
PASCUAL, GABRIELLE PAUL SORIANO
PAZ, JOEL JOHN GARCIA
PEREZ, JOSE NICKOLO ONGTENGCO
PERLADA, MICAELA CRISTINA BRETAÑA
QUEBRAL, MONICO JOSE GAERLAN
QUINIO, MARIA FLORLEAN SOTTO
QUIZ, JAN YNAW TAVARRO
RESERVA, MA. ELEANOR RONQUILLO
RESMA, STEVEN MICHAEL LIM
REYES, ALDRIC CRISTOVAL CHUA
REYES, CYRIL RENO VELASCO
REYES, DOMINIC ROWELL ORILLAZA
REYES, MARGARITA ALEXANDRA DIZON
RIGUERA, RIVA DE MESA
RIOFLORIDO, IANNE JOYCE ESGUERRA
RODRIGUEZ, BENJAMIN PABLO
RODRIGUEZ, NAOMI JILLAN VIDAL
ROJO, CLEO SANDRA AQUISAP
RONGCAL, JOSE CIRILO LAXAMANA
ROSALES, ARSHED MATTHEW GALLINERO
ROSETTE, JUDITH CHARMAINE ERESTAIN
SABLAN, MARIANNE SHEEN SARAH UMACAM
SALAMAT, CHRISTIAN RYAN ABUYAN
SALINDO, ELYSSE SUMALPONG
SALITA, VINZ MATTHEW SOBREMISANA
SALVO, ADRIAN PRADO
SAN ANTONIO, MARIA CRISTELLE ANCHETA
SANCHEZ, JUSTINE NICOLE GAVINO
SANCHEZ, SAMANTHA RAE MACABEO
SANTIAGO, JASMINE THERRYSE SANTOS
SANTOS, ALLEN AURIC SUBANG
SANTOS, GABRIELLE ANGELA GRANADA
SENOSIN, GINO MORALES
SERRANO, FIDEL EMMANUEL CAMILON
SERRANO, ISABEL PATRICIA REALUBIT
SEÑGA, JUAN RAMON LIBORO
SIA, JASPER LOUIE TANG
SIA, MARIA CLARA ISABEL DE LOS REYES
SIBUG, FREDERICO JR. PANAGUITON
STA. ANA, RAYMUND RHOMMEL CHUA
STA. MARIA, CAESAR ALFONSO JORDAN
SUAREZ, ADA GISELLE RAMIREZ
SUAREZ, JOSHUA SALES
SURATOS, ALDRICH ARCILLA
SYJUCO, RAPHAEL GABRIEL LAIZ
TAMAYO, STEPHEN JANN ALISAN
TAN, BRYAN GABRIEL PULIDO
TAN, EMILIANO MARCELO
TAN, KEZIAH ELLERY LAMEYRA
TAN, MARQUIS ALEXANDRE SIO
TAN, NAROLVIN DACUT
TAN, PIERRE LANCE ANUNCIADO
TANCHULING, MA. CARMELA BARBARA MIRABUENO
TANQUINTIC, ANTON PHILIPPE TORAL
TARCELO, NATHAN GABRIEL VILLA
TAUFIQUE, YUSUF DANIAL CALLEJA
TEMELO, JESS ARION CALISTON
TIONGSON, ISMAEL LUIS LAZO
TOBILLO, THERESA CAMILLE SAAVEDRA
TOLOSA, FRANZ ALDRIN DE GUZMAN
TRINIDAD, JONATHAN JR TEOFILO
TUPAS, FRED NYLL SAMBO
UAYAN, JEFF MATTHEW FLORES
ULTRA, ANSELMO DAVID ESTRELLA
UTANES, KARLOS EDRRY SAN BUENAVENTURA
UY, MIRKO ALESSANDRO CUSTODIO
UY, TIMOTHY CARL FRANCISCO
VALDEZ, MAYNARD GIAN ALPUERTO
VELASQUEZ, REKON EVANGELISTA
VERDAD, CHARLES KEVIN ASUNCION
VERONA, KEVIN JOHN ABREMATEA
VIEGELMANN, ISADORA MARGUERITE JIMENEZ
VILLANUEVA, CARY AMIEL GIL
VILLAPANDO, GIAN PAOLO SAN ANTONIO
VILLASEÑOR, FAYE MANESE
VILLEGAS, ADIELLE CLARICE NICOLAS
YAP, JON KIEFER STA. CLARA
YLANAN, AVELINE MARIE DU
YOROBE, MARIAN JUSTINE HERALDO
YOUNG, JOSEPH DARWIN SIMBULAN
YUSAY, LAWRENCE ALBERT DEFERIA
ZANTUA, ROD RALPH SALAZAR

PSHS – BICOL REGION CAMPUS

ABAD, JOHN BELJOE DALISAY
ABELITA, RAYNER ALMOCERA
ACBANG, DOMINIQUE IVAN BELMIN
AGUILAR, ROJEN ROMANO
AMANSE, JOE CHRISTOPHER PAUL IMPERIAL
ANTE, GRECCO MERCURIO
ARBO, MA. BEYNOUNA MEG TOLEDO
ASAYTUNO, EMMALYN BAYNA
ASIDO, CATHERINE JOY BUENAAGUA
BALMADRID, GIL ANGELO PASTOR
BARCE, JAYSON ALEKSIE RENTORIA
BARIA, JANA THEA EUGENIO
BELTRAN, MARK STEPHEN GOMEZ
BIOLENA, IDA MAE QUINTO
BOLILAN, LOREN AUSTERO
BOLO, NICOLE REDITA
BOLO, REY EURIEL PRINCESA
BON, PRINCESS JANE ANI
BORDEOS, CHRISTIAN ARVI VILLANUEVA
CABABAN, BRYAN MONTUYA
CARATING, CHRISTIAN ALBERT MARGATE
CARREON, GABRIEL ANGELO OBUSAN
CASTILLO, FLORIANNE MARIE TAN
CHENG, ELOUIS GIANMAE SO
DIESTA, MARY ARIANNE ESPEDIDO
DIZON, JOHN SYNON CAMPOS
DOLZ, DANES DERICK CABRIA
DY PEREZ, JASON MALALUAN
EBORDE, MARK RONALD DIOCOS
ESPAÑOL, MARK FRUMENCE TEJARES
ESTIGOY, ROMAN TRISTAN VILCHEZ
EVANGELIO, SIMON SUPEÑA
FAJARDO, JETHRO JEAN RELATIVO
FERNANDO, ISABEL OPHELIA DE LEON
FORTADES, OLIVER RAVALO
GAITE, JOHN JURASSIC BERSABE
GARAY, MARC AURELIUS ADVINCULA
GARCIA, MARK JASON GARCIA
GATMAYTAN, GLORIA MIRA VALENCIA
HERNIDA, LORENZ VIC HERNANDEZ
IGLESIA, MARY TRISHA GARCIA
ILAGA, MARTIN NICCO DIAZ
IRAOLA, KRISTINE JOY MURILLO
LEGACION, NATHANIEL EMIL ESCUETA
LUCERO, INNA JESMIN MAGDANGAL
MADRIGAL, MADONNA FELIZ BAHIA
MALANG, JOHANNA OBIAS
MALIT, JOSHUA RAYMUNDO LEVERIZA
MANDANAS, JOSEPH TRISTAN DELA CRUZ
MARABELLA, JADE DOMINDIANO
MENDEZ, TERESA MARI RODULFO
NAGRAMPA, ARIANNE FILIO
NAZARENO, MARK JOSEPH ROMERO
NEBRES, XEDRIC SENRI SORIANO
OLBES, JOHN ELBERN GAMBA
PANTI, JEHAN FE SERRANO
PEREZ, JOSE MA. ALBERT HAPAL
PERVERA, FRANCIS JOHN PAUL BRIGUEL
PESIGAN, JANE MERIAL ANCIANO
PILLEJERA, JAN MICHAEL BULTRON
PINEDA, CHRYSLE ANN REY
RABINO, MONALYNE CHAVEZ
RADA, STEPHANI MARIE UBANA
REMPILLO, JAMES EARL ROYONG
REYES, JANINE EVE MICHELLE LAYESE
RITO, ESJIEMAR LEVI REGIS
SALINEL, BERNADETTE VILLEZ
SANTOS, NIGEL JERONIMO CORTEZ
SEGUI, AERIELLE ASHLEY BORDADO
STA. ANA, RAYMUND RHOMMEL CHUA
SY, JAYKERVY SANTIAGO
TALENTO, WENDY PRAXIDES
TAUFIQUE, YUSUF DANIAL CALLEJA
TENA, CESCA MARIE BALMACEDA
TENG, ALVIN SIMON BASCO
TERCERO, GERRY ELEVADO
VERANGO, VAN ANDREW GASTILO
YBAROLA, MESHA LYNN TACALAN
YOROBE, MARIAN JUSTINE HERALDO
ZANTUA, ROD RALPH SALAZAR
ZUÑIGA, IVY TRINIDAD

PSHS - CENTRAL MINDANAO CAMPUS

ABAD, DAVIE MAE GACASAN
ABDULLAH, RAYYAH SHIEK
ACENAS, JAN TRISTAN MANUELA
ADLAON, CHRISTINE DIMPNA REPALBOR
ADRIVAN, KRIZ KEVIN CANTAGO
AMBA, ARJAY ENDING
AMILHAMJA, MIKO ISMAEL UCHIDA
ASKALANI, NIA-ZAHRAN IKKAO
ATES, ANN FE AGCOL
BARA, ABDUL RAUF TOMAWIS
BARLAAN, JAN ADRIEL NUÑEZ
BAZAR, JOANA MARIE SISI
BERAME, ELAIZA TAÑAJURA
BIADO, STEPHEN BEN JOHN ARANAYDO
BIHAG, JAN AUREO BARRERA
BITON, KEVIN MAR DELOS REYES
BUÑI, EDMUND ROMBERT NABUA
CABAHUG, DANIELLE ANGELIQUE NAKILA
CABILI, STANLY CLOYD LAGARE
CABRERA, DENNIARAH MILCAH AUTENTICO
CAHULOGAN, ALBERT ANDRESAN
CANSINO, JOTHAM RAY DEL ROSARIO
CAPINPUYAN, AIMEE LORRAINE CO
CARPENTERO, EZRA RAMOS
CELDRAN, LUIS MIGUEL GO
CHING, JOHN KENNETH ENOT
CHIU, INA CATHRINA RAGUDO
CHUA, LEE CHRISTIAN JANGAD
CO, CZESKA JOHANN GAYAPA
COSIÑERO, HANNAH SHANNA ORDIZ
CUADRA, BON EVAN SEMILLA
DELA PEÑA, DHARELL JURIS CAMBONGGA
DOYDORA, DANIEL AJR GUINGAO
DUMDUM, PATRICK MANLUCOT
ENERIO, R-JAY ATOC
ESCALANTE, JOSE FERNANDO ACHACOSO
FABRICANTE, JANISSA AGRA
FERNANDEZ, SIM VINCENT BALONDO
GACHO, KYLIE ENRIQUEZ
GALCERAN, XYVELS BUHISAN
GAMO, RAFAEL TEODORO SERMON
GENERALAO, LEO LORENZ DIAZ
GO ROA, STEWART M.
GO-ACO, EARL HENRI ESTAMO
GUEVARRA, EARL CARLO
HALASAN, HANNAH JOYCE LACESTE
IBAN, RENZ FITZGERALD GENECIRAN
INDINO, HEBER JAY UCAT
INGKOH, FATIMA ERIKA AYESSA RAFOL
INSIGNE, EPHRAIM CINCO
JACINTO, PRINCE MACARAEG
JALMANZAR, KENT UZI GALIL LLOREN
KHU, KEVIN KRISTOFFER LACDO-O
LAGANAO, KEITH JOSHUA DOMEN
LAGANAO, KEVIN JOHN DOMEN
LIM, JOSEPH GABRIEL ESTENZO
LOPEZ, JESS CHRISTOPHER BERMUDEZ
MAULION, MICHAEL REY SUAREZ
MENDOZA, KIMBERLY MA. RAMO
MOAY, ARBY LON AGDA
MOHAMETANO, SHIEK SULTAN ZAYED HADJI
MONTILLA, CLIFF DUA
MUARIP, JERMINE MONIQUE DELA CRUZ
MULET, A MABELLE ENTERINA
ONGUE, CLINT DREXEL MANOSA
PACANA, DESIREE JOY A
PADERNAL, MARIA ZARA ZULITA
PADRO, MAURICE UMBERTO DELA CRUZ
PAGAL, APRELLE LYN GERONA
PAULMA, JANELLE HYLENI LAGUNA
PAW, ARTHUR RYAN YEE
PEREGRINO, JON BENEDICT YAP
RAVELO, JERMAINE ALEXIS SIERRA
REDOBLE, LOUISA IRENE DELA RAMA
ROA, PAULI ARIELLE BATARILAN
RODAS, AMIEL LASALA
RUBIO, MA. AGNES UYAT
SABAC, ALGIN MICHAEL GUIÑARES
SAMBO, JAN PHILIPPE BAYANG
SAMPCO, RASHID JALALUDIN BATARA
SANGCA, NHURJI HAN FAUSTO
SANTOS, DOMINIQUE RAE CALO
SARSABA, GRETCHEN GWEN G.
SAYSON, CEASAR NEIL BORRES
SEHOB, YASMIN ZARAH
SIA, SEAN BENSON TANKIKO
SIASON, RAEVIN AUXTERO
SILAN, JOSE GABRIEL AGDAMAG
TAGALOG, CRISTOPER JAY PRAMO
TAN, NAROLVIN DACUT
TAN, NERICK JASON SUNBANUN
TEVES, DAVID IMMANUEL SERATE
TOCALDO, JESSA JOY PURANGO
VALDEZ, ARIEL CHAVEZ
VIRATA, ARTHUR GREGORY NAPAO
YBAÑEZ, CARREN ANNE GUIGUIO
YOUNG, JOSEPH DARWIN SIMBULAN

PSHS – CAGAYAN VALLEY CAMPUS

ABARCA, KARL ANDREW GARCIA
ADDURU, KRISHNA CARLOS
AGGABAO, MIKHAIL AMBROSE RAMOS
AGUILAR, RITZ ANN PACCARANGAN
ALBERTO, KARISSA PELEJO
ALIASAS, ANNE NICOLE VICTORINO
ALLADO, ERLYNNE JANE A
ALMENDRA, CHARMAINE RUMBAOA
ANDAL, PAUL MARCO GUZMAN
ANTONIO, MARIA KRISTINA NATIVIDAD
ARANTE, NOEMIE SORIANO
ARGONZA, ESTALKER III GALING
BABARAN, LOUIE KEM ANTHONY MALLONGA
BACUD, MOHNCHING JAY-AHR PACIS
BACULANTA, MOSES ADEL AGUADA
BAGANO, ANGEL LUKE BAWING
BASSIG, BERNADETTE TAGAL
CALUBAQUIB, ALBERTO JR TAPALLA
CALULOT, LILIAN DORONI
CAMHOL, KATHLEEN JOY ALLAGA
CANIONES, CARLO GABRIEL UY
CAPUCHINO, GERARD PACIFICO TELAN
CASTRICIONES, MARK KEVIN DEFIESTA
CATOLOS, JHERARD MARC BUGAYONG
CLEMENTE, DAVIAN ELLOISA VALDEZ
COLLADO, CHRISTOPHER COLLADO
COLLIT, JOHANNA CHRISTINE QUEMADA
CORPUZ, LEA MAE BUMANGLAG
CRUZAT, CRISANDRA AUDREY PUNZALAN
CUNTAPAY, STEVE BENEDICT PAGALILAUAN
DE LEON, SHERMAINE ANNE BALOT
DULAY, LOUISE ELINOR RIVERA
DUMAYA, CHARLEMAGNE REVOLLIDO
EDPIS, MICHELLE PEDYASEN
ESCOBAR, FREDERICK SINANGAN
ESCOBAR, MARVIN LUIGI PANGANIBAN
ESGUERRA, IVAN LENNARD SORIANO
ESGUERRA, JOHN CHRISTIAN SALANIO
FERNANDEZ, MART REIGNIER GUERRERO
FRANCISCO, HANI LOUIE
GANUTAN, DOMINIC DIAZ
GARCIA, MICHAEL FACURI
GENATO, RUTH ERICA GIRON
GONZALVO, JAN LEMUEL TAN
GUERRERO, ELIJAH JOSHUA SADDUL
GUMABAY, MONADESSA SAMBRANO
GUNTAYON, KARLA MAE BERNARDEZ
HUI, PAULINE BALINO
IRORITA, FLOR ANNE CORRO
JUNIO, ROLAND PAUL TURINGAN
LANGCAY, EARL JOHN IQUIN
LIGERALDE, KEVIN PATALINGHUG
MALABAD, ALIMAR MOHAMMAD BATANG
MANANGAN, FLORENCE MUSALAYA AYAHAO
MANGOBA, JOHN DEE ANCHETA
MANINGAS, ABEL ROSS ABANIA
MANONGDO, MARIAN ABIGAILE NILO
MERCADO, NATHANIEL JHON SALVADOR
MIGUEL, PATRICIA JOANNE GARCIA
MOLINA, RC STEVE A
ONG, ALYSSA CHUA
ORAY, GIL JR DULAWAN
ORTEGA, JOVILYN TAMANI
PARAGGUA, JOHN SMITH MARTINEZ
PEKAS, SIGRID TUDLONG
PERALTA, JOHN PHILIP AMBOY
PUYAOAN, RIO JOANA MANALO
RAMIREZ, ELVIS JACOB CALIMAG
REYES, MARK LESTER NARAG
SABBAN, FREDERICO BUNUAN
SALVADOR, NICOLAS EDWARD RAMOS
SALVATIERRA, JERSIE ROSET DOCTOR
SICAM, ARNEL SANTIAGO
TACCAD, MARICON DAYAG
TAGUINOD, JANE FRANCES DAYAG
TAN, GIL ANTHONY DELA CRUZ
TOBIAS, SARAH IBARRA
TOLEDO, BERNADETTE GUZMAN
TRINIDAD, JONATHAN JR TEOFILO
TULIAO, KEITH KRYSTEL BAXA
TULIAO, ROWELL BACUD
TUSCANO, FAYE ANN DU
UY, MIRKO ALESSANDRO CUSTODIO
VENTURA, BRYNEL JAMES DACUYCUY
VERGARA, RONNEL MANGULAD
WY, ANNA LOUISE PASCUAL
ZIPAGAN, EUNICE FAITH BAQUIRAN

PSHS – CENTRAL VISAYAS CAMPUS

ATON, PHILIP JR LUMANTAO
BATINGAL, MARIANNE L'GAN
BIRAD, KRYNICA JUSTINE CABUNTOCAN
BUREROS, JESON BENIGAY
CALIZAR, NESTOR JR HORMILLADA
CANOY, ARMAND HENZKEL BANGOLAN
CUEVAS, GRACE CONCEPCION VILLAS
CUTANDA, PRAICELL JEANE ARRO
DAGMANG, CORNELLIUS ELFIE ALBURA
DEGUIT, CHRISTIAN DEO TORREQUEMADA
DIGAL, ROWENA SAMON
DUHAYLUNGSOD, CHICA SANDALO
DUHAYLUNGSOD, RIOIE CEDEÑO
ECHAVEZ, HAZEL MARIE OTERO
FLORES, JANE ELLIZ BAGONG
GANDIONCO, NICK JONATHAN VIRTUDAZO
GLOVASA, ORLAND ALAGON
GODINEZ, JONATHAN ROEL LOMANTAS
GUBAT, NIKKO PAOLO LARA
INQUITO, JACOB NOEL MAGHANOY
ITANG, CORAZON ERICKA MAE MICAROS
MAGALLON, NESTOR HENRY MARTE II
MIYAHARA, JUNICHI ENMACINO
MONCADA, CHYRENE IYOG
MONTE, NIÑO ALCUIZAR
MORADOS, FRANZEL MAE AGAN
NAMOCATCAT, RONA MARIE SEVILLA
OCTAVA, ALPHECCA MAY TAÑAJURA
PAKSON, PAUL STEPHEN NASOL
RAGAY, JULIUS ANTHONY BANDOQUILLO
RAMIRO, JOSE FIDEL PINEDA
REYES, STELLA MARIS BARBARONA
ROSALES, RUTH NAOMI MARIAE
SOSAS, KEVIN JOHNREY DABATOS
SULATRA, JOSHUA NEAL SARCE
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ATTY. REYNALDO RAPIZ LEDESMA

Joined our Creator on February 13, 2006.

His loving wife **Ligaya** (†); children: **Atty. Ronaldo, Ricky** & **Liz, Marie Yvette, Dr. Raul** & **Issa**; grandchildren: **Katrina Dale "Chop", Ricardo Luis "Mao"** and all his relatives and friends request the pious readers to pray for the etenal repose of his soul.

His remains lie in state at Superior Chapel, Funeraria Paz, Quezon City.

Interment will be held at Loyola Marikina on February 18, 2006 at 9:00 a.m. after the 8:00 a.m. Mass.

"Even when I walk through a dark valley, I feel no harm! For you are at my side, your rod and staff give me courage..."
Psalm 23:4

ATTY. BRICCIO N. TAMPARONG, SR.

of Cagayan de Oro City

Peacefully joined his Creator on the 14th of February 2006 at the age of 88.

He is survived by his wife **Aida** and children **Glenn** (†) and wife **Maridel, Ricky & Lyn,** and **Sally**; and grandchildren **Aimi & Raffy Lim, Trisha, Vanessa, Mika, Maite** and **Maigi Tamparong**; and brother to **Ernesto** (†) & wife **Alice, Roy** and wife **Carmen.**

His body lies in state at the Divine Shepherd Memorial Chapels, Bulua, Cagayan de Oro City (08821) 738700 and interment on 17 February 2006 at 8:00 a.m.

An obituary with a picture can be a fitting tribute to your departed loved one.

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OBITUARY REQUIREMENTS:
❶ Copy of Death Certificate ❷ Any identification document (I.D.)

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BUSINESS

Useless costs kill jobs

By Ernesto M. Ordoñez

ON THE DAY SECRETARY ANGElo reyes took over the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR), Jose Maria Zabaleta, Executive Director of the Sugar Millers Association, expressed hope that the new secretary would immediately revoke a department order that imposes useless costs on companies that could well kill present and future jobs.

DAO 05-06 states that the Mandatory Environmental Insurance Coverage MEIC "shall encompass payment of damages to wealth and property, environment rehabilitation, remediation, and/or clean up costs and expenses, and provide a facility for the alleviation and recompense for any kind of environmental impairment or damage by reason of the project.".

-Zabaleta said: "The objectives of the MEIC are the right ones, but these can already be achieved through the provisions of existing laws."

Environment guarantee fund

Today, there is an Environment Guarantee Fund (EGF), where companies are required by law to contribute specific amounts of money. The amount depends on factors such as a company's capitalization and risk to environment levels.

Several food processors commend the transparency in the use of these funds. This is because a multi-sectoral group exercises close supervision over the EGF. Chaired by the DENR, these groups include the concerned industry, local government units and non-government organizations.

If the company contributions to the EGF are not used because there is no environmental damage, the fund builds up. On the other hand, if money is taken out of the EGF, company contributions can be increased accordingly.

Zabaleta said: "If the funds in the EGF today are not sufficient to meet the stated objectives of MEIC, the solution is to increase the EGF fund with its built-in transparency and accountability safeguards. We commend the DENR for having formulated the EGF mechanisms through extensive consultations with all the affected "stakeholders."

COMMENTARY

Areas of concern

In the formulation of the MEIC department administrative order, such consultations did not take place. Thus, important areas of concern have been raised.

One is that all firms with an Environmental Clearance Certificate (ECC) and the Certificate of Non-Coverage (CNC) are now required to contribute significant additional funds to the MEIC.

If justified, this additional cost would be appropriate. However, the individual in-depth company analysis done for the EGF is not present in the MEIC. Consequently, many firms will be forced to give unnecessarily large contributions.

For example, a CNC is the certification of the DENR Environment Management Group that says that a project has negligible impact on the environment. It should, therefore, not be required to pay additional insurance premiums as specified in the MEIC order.

For companies with ECCs, the additional insurance a company has acquired through its own initiative may not be appropriately credited in determining that company's required MEIC contribution.

Another concern is that not all of the 41 insurance companies accredited by the DENR are knowledgeable or qualified enough to undertake the necessary steps required for MEIC compliance.

Today, only one company attests to having policies covering environmental insurance. This makes it the only underwriter for the insurance. The 40 others simply become agents of application. This virtual monopoly puts at risk the features of transparency and accountability present in the EGF.

Impact to farmers

Though 40 percent of our labor force is directly accounted for by agriculture, another 30 percent is accounted for by agriculture-related industries.

Albert Lim, President of the National Federation of Hog Farmers Incorporated, said: "If government imposes useless costs on food processing, such as those that may result from the MEIC implementation, we will not get the investments that we need. This will greatly harm the farmers, whose products will not generate the value they would otherwise get with food processing."

A similar lack of consultation led to the uproar over DENR's automatic cancellation of all Community· Based Forest Management Agreements (CBFMAs).

The cancellation has affected 200,000 hectares of mangrove areas in the coastal areas and 1.9 million hectares in the uplands.

This cancellation of legal agreements without due process was linked to signed, but yet unpublished, administrative orders allowing investments in these same areas, with no regard to the now cancelled CBFMAs.

Action taken

To his credit, DENR Secretary Michael Defensor immediately ordered a halt to the implementation of the questionable administrative orders when he heard of the objections, and subjected them to further review.

It is hoped that DENR Secretary Reyes will act in the same manner.

(The author is Agriwatch chair; former Cabinet secretary for Presidential Flagship Programs and Projects, and former undersecretary of agriculture and trade and industry. For inquiries and suggestions, email agriwatchphil@yahoo.com or telefax 02-8516635.)

BIR tax effort rose in 2005 to 9.9% of GDP

Agency still fell short of target of 10.3%

By Michelle V. Remo

THE BUREAU OF INTERNAL Revenue's tax effort increased last year to 9.9 percent of gross domestic product, ending seven straight years of decline.

The BIR's tax effort, which measures its ability to increase its revenues relative to the growth in the economy, is computed as the ratio between the agency's tax collection of P534.486 billion and GDP of P5.379 trillion.

The BIR's tax effort is different from the national government's tax effort, which includes collections from the Bureau of Customs.

Records showed that the BIR's tax effort hit 13 percent in 1997, before going downhill to 12.7 percent in 1998, 11.5 percent in 1999, 10.8 percent in 2000, 10.7 percent in 2001, 10.2 percent in 2002, 9.9 percent in 2003 and 9.7 percent in 2004.

The government attributes the improvement in the tax effort to the administrative measures implemented by the BIR to improve revenue collections, such as the use of third-party sources to verify the accuracy of income tax declarations by corporate taxpayers.

But despite the increase, last year's tax effort still fell short of the government's target of 10.3 percent.

The shortfall in the tax effort was brought about by the BIR's inability to meet its absolute collection target last year of P546.9 billion.

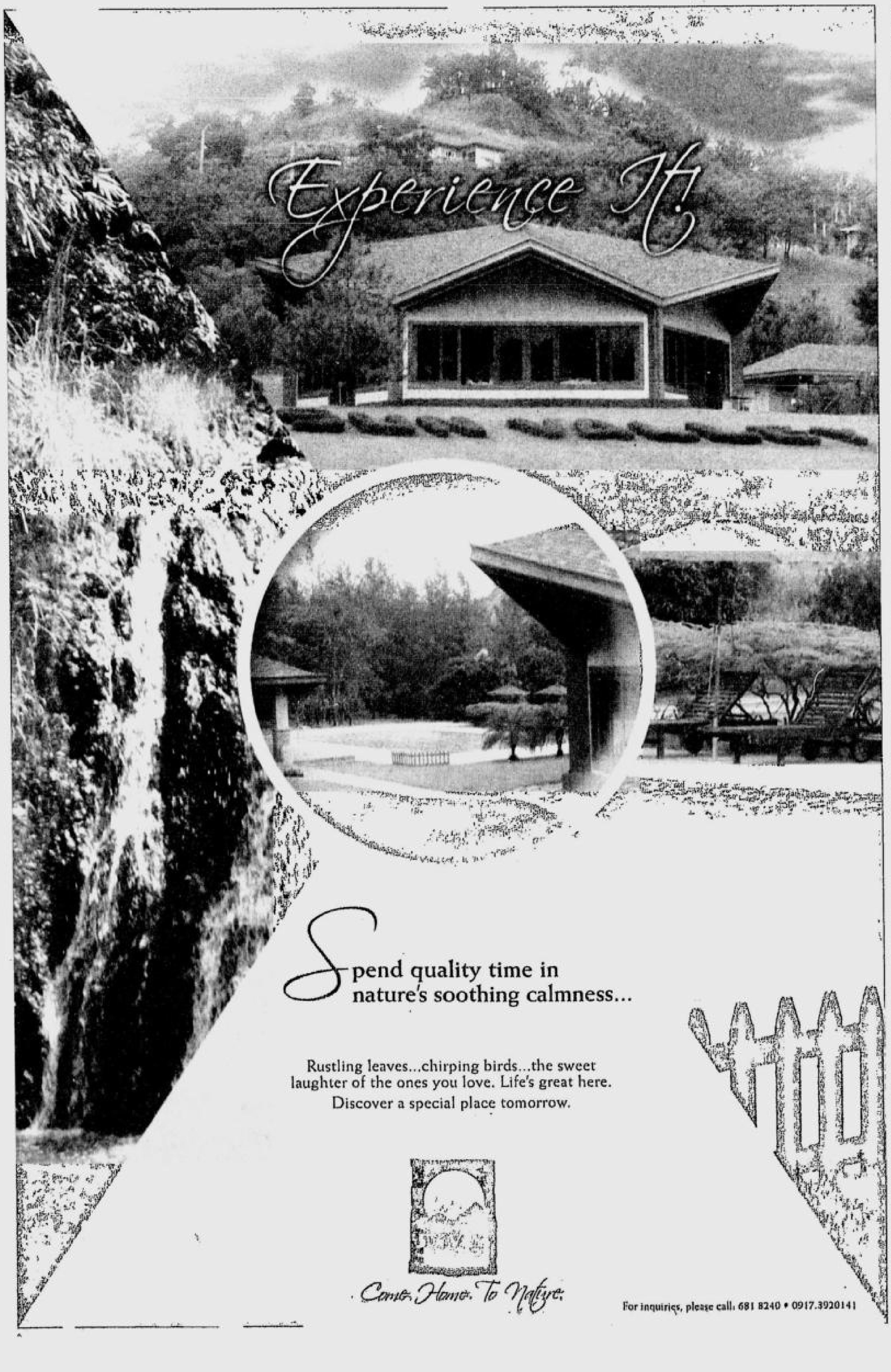
This year, the BIR is tasked to collect P675.353 billion, or 26 percent higher than its last year's collection.

With a target GDP of P5.999 trillion this year, the BIR is therefore required to attain a tax effort of 11.3 percent.

The government is pinning its hopes on the implementation of the VAT Reform Law to boost collections of the BIR, the main revenue collector for the national government.

The VAT Reform Law expanded the coverage of the value-added tax to include oil and electricity, among others, starting Nov. 1 last year. It also raised the VAT rate from 10 to 12 percent starting last Feb. 1.

The tax measure is estimated to bring in P75 billion in additional revenues this year.



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INVITATION TO BID

ILOILO II ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE, INC. (ILECO II) WITH OFFICE ADDRESS AT BRGY. CAU-AYAN, POTOTAN, ILOILO IS INVITING ELIGIBLE BIDDERS FOR BIDDING OF UNINSTALLED DENDRO THERMAL EQUIPMENT (AS IS WHERE IS) LOCATED WITHIN INCA RESERVATION AT SITIO TAGBAKAN, BRGY. JAYOBO, LAMBUNAO, ILOILO.

You are therefore invited for Pre-Bid on March 30, 2006 (Thursday), 1:30 p.m. at ILECO II Board Room, Brgy. Cau-ayan, Pototan, Iloilo wherein there will be an open discussion in preparation for the final bidding schedule on April 5, 2006 (Wednesday) at 1:30 p.m.

Bid Documents will be available only to qualified bidders from February 20 to March 10, 2006 upon payment of non-refundable amount of One Thousand Pesos Only (Php1,000.00) to the Iloilo II Electric Cooperative, Inc. cashier.

ILECO II has the right to decide all matters regarding the bidding of said equipment.

For more information, please contact Mr. Fernando L. Lasafin/ Engr. Jose Redmond Eric Roquios at (033) 529-8981, (033) 529-8063-64.

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INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The Civil Aeronautics Board (CAB), through the Bids and Awards Committee (BAC), will conduct a public bidding for the supply of the following computer equipment.

QUANTITY	DESCRIPTION	BUDGET
18 Units	IBM branded desktop computer with the following specifications: • Pentium IV 3.0 GHz processor (HT Technology) • 256 MB DDR Memory • At least 64MB video card • At least 80 GB hard drive • Windows XP Professional, pre-installed • AVR • Monitor 17" • CD ROM 52X • Floppy Drive 1.4	P 2,000,000.00
2 Units	Any branded Lap Top • Intel Pentium Processor • 256MB DDR Memory upgradeable up to 2GB • At least 40GB Hard Disk Drive • FDD (EXT / INT) • 56K Modem • 10/100 Mbps Fast Ethernet LAN • Combo Drive • At least 2x USB 2.0 Port • Microsoft Windows XP (Home/Prof.)	
20 Units	Antivirus (Mc Affee)	
12 Units	HP PSC 3-in-1 1410 printer	
20 Units	MS Office XP 2003 (OLP NL)	

Bidding will be conducted through open competitive procedures as specified in the IRR-A of RA 9184, otherwise known as the Government Procurement Reform Act.

The BAC will use the single stage bidding system under which all interested bidders are required to submit three (3) envelopes namely: the Eligibility Envelope, the First envelope or Technical Proposals and the Second Envelope or the Financial Proposal.

All particulars relative to Eligibility statement and screening, Bid Security, Performance Security, pre-bid conference, evaluation of Bids, post qualification and Award of Contract shall be governed by the pertinent provisions of RA 9184 and its IRR.

The complete schedule of activities is listed as follows:

ACTIVITIES	SCHEDULE
Issuance of Bid Documents	Feb. 10-23, 2006
Pre-Bid Conference	(Optional) Feb. 23, 2006
Dropping of Bid Tender Documents	March 7, 2006 on or before 12.00 AM
Opening of Bids	March 7, 2006 (2.00 P.M.)
Bid Evaluation	March 8, 2006
Post Qualification	March 9, 2006
Notice of Award	March 15, 2006

The CAB assumes no responsibility whatsoever to compensate or indemnify bidders for any expenses incurred in the preparation of their bids. Should you need any further information or clarification regarding the above, please contact Mr. Jesus F. Ibay Jr., Chief, Administrative Division or Mr. Wilmer C. Camba, at Office telephone number 851-48-98.

• *Erratum:* Instead of P1,600,000.00 budget as earlier published last 10 February 2006, it should be P2,000,000.00 inclusive of EVAT. Please take note of increases in quantity of items.

CARMELO L. ARCILLA
Deputy Executive Director
Chairman, Bids and Awards Committee (BAC)
(PDI-Feb 10 & 17, 2006)

E-mail: pr_business@inquirer.com.ph

BUSINESS*Friday*

Business Features Editor **Margie Quimpo-Espino**

WHAT'S INSIDE

Handling a project's blind spot

/B2-2

Banker's dilemma: How to segmentize corporate accounts

/B2-3

Baguio's night market

/B2-4

MYTH #1

AREN'T ALL CARS AS SAFE AS A VOLVO THESE DAYS?

Sadly, no. Although — strange as it might sound — we've tried to make sure they are. For example,. when Volvo invented the three point seat belt in 1959 we decided not to patent it so all manufacturers could use it -- and save even more lives. (we did the same thing when we invented the catalytic converter in 1976, incidentally. No patent.)

Because when it comes to safety, we're utterly committed to going the extra mile. That's why we build all our cars to safety standards that go far beyond the EURO NCAP star system. No wonder that Folksam, a Swedish crash testing agency, has used data from real-life accidents to calculate that Volvo models are at least 30% safer than the average car. And in the annual Consumers Association safety tests, our whole range consistently beats many cars with a five-star EURO NCAP rating.

The same commitment drove our investment in our multi-million pound Safety Centre in Gothenburg, which has investigated over 30,000 real life accidents involving Volvo cars and used their findings to make our cars even safer.

And because we believe computer simulations tell only half the story, we also conduct over 200 full-scale collisions each year, based on what researchers discover on the roads.

We then use this information to create unique safety enhancements, from increasing the size of our crumple zones to help protect pedestrians to WHIPS, our Whiplash Protection System, proven to reduce the risk of long-term whiplash injury.

It's this kind of innovative thinking that also led us create Linda — the car world's first virtual 'pregnant' crash test dummy — and our brand new BLIS system, designed to cut the number of accidents caused by drivers failing to spot vehicles in their 'blind spot'.

And we won't stop developing, refining and introducing new safety features until we're convinced that our cars are as safe as they can possibly be. It's our passion.

MYTH #2

A VOLVO'S NATURAL HABITAT IS THE SLOW LANE

Or at the very most, the middle lane. But put your foot down in a Volvo these days and you'll find that myth disappears as fast as the cars in your rear-view mirror.

After all. Volvo was winning British Touring Car Championships when the competition was still sitting on their dads' shoulders in the stands. And we've carried that love of flat-out thrills into our production cars.

Take the Volvo S60 T5, for example. Available for test drives at Volvo dealerships—but in 2002, the very same car broke 18 land-speed records in 24 hours at Milbrook (including racking up an average speed of 135.1mph). Which makes it the only production car to hold such a record. It packs a mighty 260bhp under the bonnet and 350Nm of torque, yet balanced by an array of performance-enhancing technology designed to keep your car on the road and smile on your face. Slow? Sluggish? Sorry, we've got to put our foot down on that one...

MYTH #3

OK, BUT AREN'T VOLVO FANS IN THE MINORITY?

Ah, you'd be surprised. In the past few years, it's been Volvo that's been getting the motoring press hot under the collar, not the marques you'd expect. In the words of an international motoring correspondent, 'these day Volvos are cool cars to be seen in'.

Even certain, more notoriously hard to please motoring journalists have been bowled over -- 'it must be the sheer brutality of the thing that made it head and shoulders above our favorites. Influenced by the strong kick in the solar plexus, we truly felt that if power and excitement is what you want, this is what you need.'

So if you've ever felt inexplicable feelings of attraction towards a Volvo, take heart. You're not alone. Now why not see where those longings take you?

MYTH #4

VOLVO CARS ARE SLEEK AND STYLISH.

OK. NOW THIS MYTH IS TRUE AND WE TOTALLY AGREE.

Take a look at our current car range and we're sure you'll agree we're definitely sexy and curvy -- fluid lines, seductive curves, elegant profiles -- you'll find them all over our 2006 range.

But don't take our word for it. The best way to really see how far we've come is to get behind the wheel yourself. So if you like what you read so far - the best is yet to come.

2006 VOLVO S60 T5

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Photo may vary from actual unit available at dealership.

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POLITICAL RISKS

Handling a project's blind spot

By Dante M. Velasco
Contributor

NOTHING ELSE IS NEW. PROJECT PROPONENTS and managers—after putting up an industrial plant, inaugurating a mining site, or erecting a cement plant—are usually shocked by the consequent hostility of host communities.

A power plant in Mindanao, a few years ago, was about complete and turbines were just about to crank out electricity, but other important installations could not be delivered to the site because the roads were blocked by protestors lying in the middle of the road.

A mining site could not start operations due to an implacable resistance by the community, raising environmental concerns. A changing of the guards was hastily made for a new tack, but even the local church prelate remains unconvinced.

A cement plant in the north did not see the light of day due to the vigorous opposition of local residents, confronting the project proponents with serious environmental issues that remained unanswered to this day.

The good news is, the power plant in Mindanao has long begun operations, due to a belated realization that there was a "political" crisis in the community, and then officials staged a successful stakeholder communication effort.

It addressed concerns on the possible pollution of rivers and risks on health, and reached out to the leaders in the area at all levels of decision-making, from the barangay chairman to the governor.

The protesters were not won over completely, but a mechanism of "critical collaboration" was agreed on. Thus, plant authorities to this day are always on their toes anytime the multisectoral monitoring group calls their attention to a possible health or environmental risk.

The mining project continues to be hobbled by a lack of genuine communication effort, but hopes are high that the entry of a high profile executive, known for his commitment to the environment, might yet resolve the impasse.

Engineering marvel is not enough. There must be a gap somewhere. And most project managers have a "blind spot" in the area of "political risks," which can be addressed by a wide-ranging and well-informed "stakeholder communications" program. This program proceeds from the concept that host communities, among many others, are "stakeholders" of a project.

Engineers and construction experts may build an engineering marvel, harness the best project management methods, complete the project on schedule and within budget, go through scientifically tested simulation exercises, even perfect technical information dissemination among themselves (which they call "communication" in a severely limited way)—yet the projects are delayed or mothballed because they were met with great resistance by people.

In a study I'm making, I found out that we are not lacking at all in books and journals on project management and risk assessment. But, a cursory reading of such books and investigation of other data bank shows a very limited appreciation of the crucial importance of reaching out to the community, listening to their hopes and fears.

If the project handlers do this, they will invariably find a common ground and thus achieve "co-existence," at the very least, or "mutual trust," at best.

Mitigating or eliminating risks. Project managers, deep into engineering disciplines, may understandably gloss over the importance of "human communication" in their risk assessment exercises. Often, they realize a little too late that beyond technical, financial, construction and other risks are the more unpredictable but very important "political risks."

Jose P. de Jesus, president of the Manila North Tollways Corporation (MNTC) and formerly Public Works and Highways Secretary, zeroed in on "political risks" as the proverbial hard nut to crack.

In a speech before the Management Association of the Philippines, the MNTC chief pointed out that political risks "confront every major project in terms of changes in the political dispensation, community resistance, legislative inquiries, and organized opposition by civil society."

De Jesus added that a "proactive and comprehensive public information program, government liaison and communication efforts can mitigate these risks."

A risk management expert, Helga Odden Resknes of Norway, refers to these political risks in a more academic way. In a presentation she made before project risk managers, she emphasized the need to "establish binding contact between social sciences and natural sciences in order to create the best possible platform for risk communication."

Go for a shared future. She meant that real communication—in the realm of the social sciences—must complement the comfort zones of the engineering discipline mostly grounded on the physical sciences. If you think this sounds "too academic," just bear in mind that considering the human and social factors might yet save your project or add an important element to your risk assessment.

"A project is never without risks," said Daniela Van Well-Stam, co-author of "Project Risk Management," published by Kogan Page, adding that "performing risk analysis and management is actually necessary to maintain control over a project." Other books refer to such analysis as "uncertainty analysis."

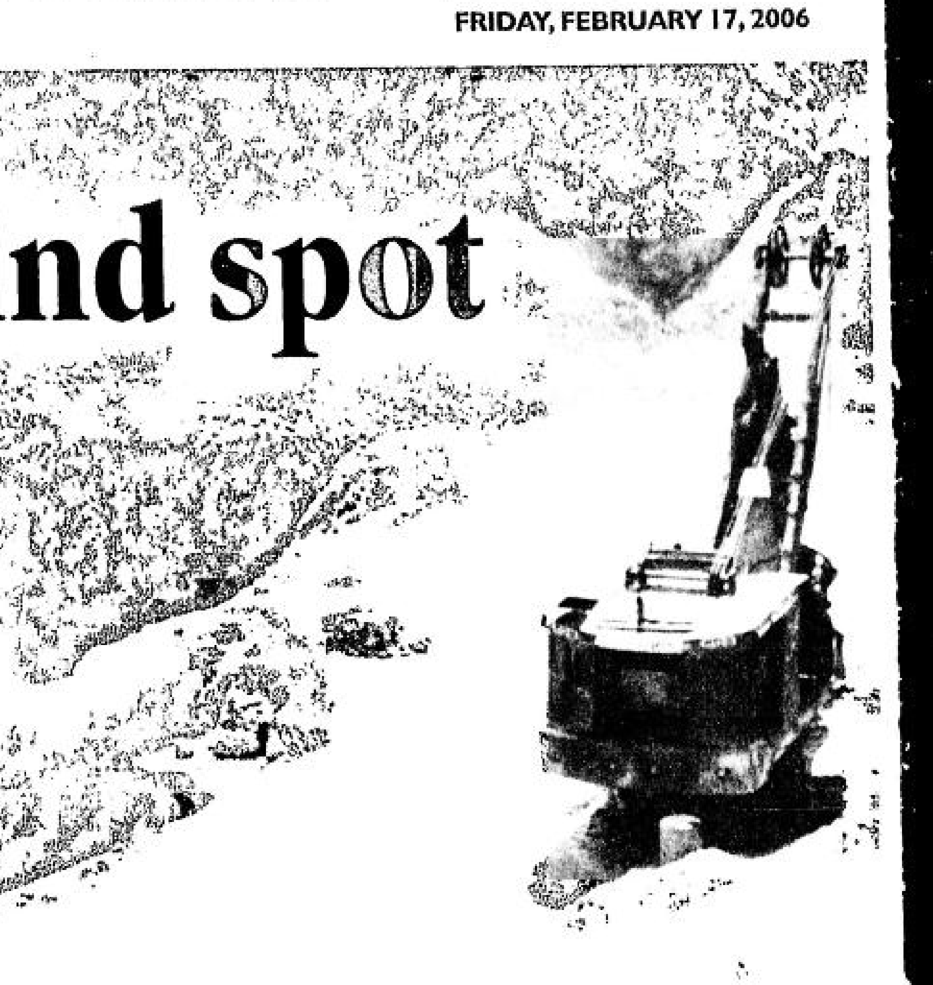
Ahead of every project manager—be it an industrial plant, the Olympics, a space shuttle project, an IT prototype or even a corporate anniversary celebration—is an uncertainty in varying degrees of severity and likelihood.

The lesson learned is this: Engineering precision and predictive techniques must be complemented by a program on coming to grips with community, political—even regulatory—risks. When you do your homework, as proponents of some some successful projects did, you can actually mitigate or completely eliminate the risks.

After all, even host communities would prefer to spend their time co-existing with a structure that promises them a brighter common future than to waste valuable time on the sidelines with screaming placards in opposition to an otherwise good project that has been poorly communicated.

Project managers who turn a "blind eye" to and dismiss political risks as a needless distraction to their perfect engineering marvel will get a surprise of their lives. But, if you heed the words of experienced project risk analysts and take to heart the wise counsel of veteran Ping de Jesus of flyover—and NLEX—fame, you will be glad you did.

(The author is president of Creative Point, the Philippine affiliate of Hill & Knowlton, senior lecturer at the graduate department of UP College of Mass Communications, a doctoral candidate completing his dissertation on project risk communications.)



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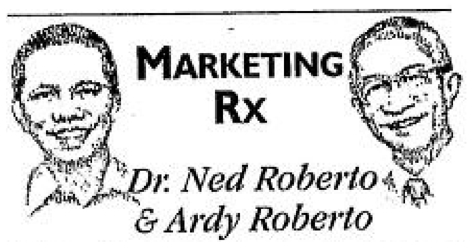
Banker's dilemma: How do we segment corporate accounts to grow?



Dr. Ned Roberto
& Ardy Roberto

Q: WE'RE A RELATIVELY LARGE COMMERCIAL bank. The bank's marketing department is fairly young, organized only 6-7 years ago. I've just been assigned to take over this department. I'm not a marketing man. I've been a finance guy. Management said they picked me because I asked the most sensible questions whenever we had meetings on the bank's advertising campaign, promotion, share of business from our major corporate accounts, loyalty programs, and the like.

Our business planning is not for a calendar year but for a fiscal year July to June. We are in the midst of planning for fiscal year July 2006 to June 2007. We're stuck (that is, my marketing department is) right at the starting portion of our marketing plan for our corporate banking business. That's the plan's corporate account segmentation section.

We meet with the bank's Marketing Committee (MarkCom) twice a week. Each meeting is devoted to reviewing what my department has been able to do with one section of the marketing plan. When we met last week on how to segment our corporate accounts as the sources of our revenue objective, the MarkCom questioned our segmentation. We wanted to segment by industry or type of business arguing that each industry differs in its priority banking needs and requirements. That's what I've learned from reading your column. You once said that segments should be "differentially responsive." Corporate accounts segmented by industry are differentially responsive. MarkCom challenged this and said that segmenting by "account status" yields segments that are more differentially responsive. It defined "account status" as being "a key account," "a non-key account," and "a lapsed account." Our corporate account base has been eroding for the past three years, and so the inclusion of lapsed accounts for reacquisition.

I'm not sure how to proceed. I've asked my people: "How do I convince our MarkCom that our department's segmentation is better?" But then, someone in my department raised the challenging question: "Is it?"

A: Your dilemma happens to others often enough. Not only to bank marketers but other service companies as well and even more often to consumer goods companies. So our diagnosis and prescription should apply to all those who find themselves in the same or similar marketing planning situation.

The key problem-solving market segmentation concept to apply in your case encourages you NOT to think of market segmentation as a one-time process or decision. When you do this, you tend to see the situation you're in as a choice and an either-or case: it's my segmentation VERSUS our MarkCom's segmentation.

In his 2002 book, Strategic Market Segmentation, the senior MRx-er showed that the effective marketer segments each time he or she is faced with a marketing decision. A one-time segmentation won't work, and when it does, it's only apparently so. For example, when you're deciding on a positioning, you segment the total market by priority needs. Let's say, hypothetically, that you're managing a Jollibee and you're planning for its hamburger line that you want to take back because the likes of Burger Machine have taken over this category. So, let's say you segmented the burger market by age groups: children, teeners, young adults, mature adults, and post-mature adults. You did this because research showed you that the priority needs for burger differ from one segment to the next. After your research profiled these segments by their priority burger values, you found that it's the teen and young adult segments who equally have the highest priority burger needs. So you decided that these would be your two primary target market (PTM) segments.

> Avoid doing market segmentation as a one-time process.

Now, let's say that you're deciding on pricing. Your pricing plan should start with segmentation: Segment your PTM segment by price sensitivity. When you do this, your research may find that your young adult PTM segment, for example, is segmented into three price segments: (1) an "economy segment" whose priority burger values is for a cheap burger with minimum quality, (2) a "premium segment" who value quality more and to whom price is only secondary, and (3) a "super premium segment" who says, "Just talk to me about quality and not about price; what do you think of me, poor?!" This consumer insight from a price segmentation will bring you back then to your burger product development so that you can offer three burger variants: a "value" burger for the economy segment, a premium burger for the premium segment, and a top-of-the-line burger for the super premium segment.

Macro-level segmentation

This sequential or 2-or-more tier segmentation should also hold for top-level or national-level planning down to your local-level or branch-level planning. It's the segmenting that you should do for your marketing plan and then segmenting for the sales plan. In the marketing plan, marketers do what we call "macro" segmentation, as in the case of segmenting by socio-eco classes: the Class AB segment, Class C, Class D, and Class E. Suppose, after profiling, the marketing plan decided in favor of the broad C plus the upper D as its PTM segment. When the marketing plan for this PTM segment is passed on to sales department to implement, the sales plan starts the planning process with a "micro" segmentation of the PTM segment.

For example, based on its field and grassroot familiarity with the PTM segment, your sales department may say that in their sales territories, the broad C and upper D consumers differ according to how geographically close they are to a Jollibee store: those within a 500 meter radius behave differently from those within a 1 km radius, and in turn versus those within a 2 km radius. In other words, the sales department finds that to successfully execute the marketing plan for the macro-PTM segment, it had to segment this PTM into geographical micro-segments.

Profile to arrive at PTM segments

We believe this 2-tier segmentation is your case. So you may want to get back to your MarkCom and present your case as follows. The segmentation of your corporate accounts by industry is the marketing plan or macro level segmentation. Profile these segments and arrive at your PTM segment/s. Then craft the marketing program that will enable the company to generate its targeted revenues from these segments. Then ask Sales, or in your case, the Branches for their sales plan. In this sales plan, they may want to segment the PTM segment by "account status": key accounts, non-key accounts, and lapsed or likely-to-lapsed accounts. Sales or branches will then craft a sales plan or LSM plan for each of these micro-segments.

In service companies whose operation is characterized by high customer contact (as in restaurants, hotels, resorts, spas), a sales plan is known as an LSM plan, "Local Store Marketing" plan. We heard that the LSM term came from McDonald's who call their restaurants, "stores." In your case, you have branches. However, in our consulting work with banks, we have refrained from substituting "branch" for "store" in the LSM term, for obvious reasons.

Here's a summary of our Marketing Rx's:

Avoid doing market segmentation as a one-time process. It's not 'this segmentation' versus 'that segmentation'; it's not your marketing department's segmentation versus MarkCom's segmentation. It's both but appropriately positioned or sequenced as prescribed below.

Every time you have a marketing decision to make, segment according to the market's differing "responsiveness" to that marketing decision: differing responsiveness to your product offer, pricing, promotion, placement, and service delivery.

Do sequential segmentation as you descend the planning levels: segment for your national plan or marketing plan, and then segment your chosen PTM for your territory plan or sales/action plan.

Update your command of marketing concepts especially the market segmentation concept every so often. As a management discipline, marketing has seen over the past decade unprecedented rapid, large, and continuing changes. You said that you're not a marketing man and you are new to marketing. You actually have an advantage over those who have long been in marketing but have not kept up-to-date with the latest in their discipline.

Send questions to MarketingRx@pldtDSL.net or text us at 0919-314-5412. God bless!

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rural businesses and communities that promote the country's growth. Because energy is part and parcel of progress, First Gen aims to give every Filipino the power to fulfill his dreams and live a better life. First Gen is committed to deliver this power for life.

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BAGUIO'S NIGHT MARKET

No more cat-and-mouse game with police

By Ma. Rosario Alaon and Stephanie Pineda
PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

BAGUIO CITY—WHAT USED TO be a cat-and-mouse game between the police and illegal vendors here has turned into a profitable business venture with the introduction of the night market in November last year.

The night market, located along the sidewalk of Harrison Road, is fast becoming the favorite shopping strip of residents and tourists looking for cheap clothes, souvenirs and other items while taking their stroll.

WAGWAG or ukay-ukay is allowed but the city government banned the sale of pirated CDs, VCDs and DVDs.

PHOTOS BY STEPHANIE ANN PINEDA/CONTRIBUTOR

The night market, which operates from 6 to 11 p.m., offers a variety of items—wagwag (or ukay-ukay—used clothes), knitted items (sweaters, bonnets and scarves), footwear, souvenir items, bags and accessories. Prices are also cheaper since vendors do not pay rent for stalls or spaces.

Prices range from P20-P30 for bonnets, P30-P50 for ponchos and scarves, P80-P300 for jackets, P75-P300 for shoes and P70-P400 for bags.

Bargain hunters can also munch street food and sip coffee while enjoying the nippy Baguio night.

The city government has banned the sale of pirated CDs, VCDs and DVDs at the night market.

Vendors used to swarm the sidewalks of Session Road at night but complaints from pedestrians and shop owners prompted the city government to ban them from the area.

The city's anti-illegal peddling task force proposed to transfer the vendors to Harrison Road to ease human and vehicle traffic in the city's main artery due to the vendors.

2006/01/24 22:49

BARGAIN hunters dig up goods at the night market on Harrison Road in Baguio City.

Most night market vendors earn from P250 to P3,000 a night. Although they say they used to earn more when they were on Session Road, they were glad that they were allowed by the city government to sell their products in an agreed area.

Mario Pacito, 35, a wagwag vendor, says the night market has made it easier for vendors like him to sell their products. "I grew tired of evading policemen and members of demolition team during raids," Pacito says.

Emmanuel Reyes, head of the city's public order and safety division, says the experimental night market has reduced human traffic on Session Road and has instilled discipline among the vendors.

He says their records showed that about 400 vendors benefited from the night market. *With reports from Arianne Santos and Xaris Hope Tamayo*

'Endorsed by no one' policy works for 100 years

ONE HUNDRED YEARS OF LITerally supporting the world's grassroots running community is the record of Boston-based New Balance Athletic Shoe Inc., a manufacturer of innovative, width-sized footwear and athletic apparel for men, women and children.

Often described as "the little running shoe company that could—and did!" New Balance celebrates in 2006 its 100th year by sponsoring a festival of races for runners of all ages, races and backgrounds. The races are being held in 50 countries to choose 100 runners who will compose the New Balance Global Centennial Team—a team which will have the option to run in the La Salle Bank Chicago Marathon, in October 2006.

Bing Buenaventura, NB brand manager in the Philippines, says "The program is also a unique opportunity for us to highlight 50 select race events that New Balance is proud to partner in as part of our longtime support of grassroots running around the world."

In the Philippines, the program translates into a yearlong celebration, starting with a New Balance Run-All-You-Can Party on Feb. 18. This fun night run will feature a loop run course where runners earn "points" with every loop they complete. These "points" may then be exchanged for New Balance items.

At the New Balance Run-All-You-Can Party, participants may also start registering for the New Balance Power Race, set on May 28. Here, two Filipino runners have a chance to be part of the New Balance Global Centennial Team for a weekend trip to the Chicago marathon, with the option to run in that event. Those vying for the two slots, however, must not only run at the New Balance Power Race but also submit a 100-word essay on what New Balance means to them and how it has changed their lives. A New Balance apparel purchase is also required. Further announcements on how to join the New Balance Power Race will follow.

NEW BALANCE has moved in female sports apparel.

Other races and events are lined up for the year. Women will be major participants in all these events. New Balance has recently moved into apparel for women.

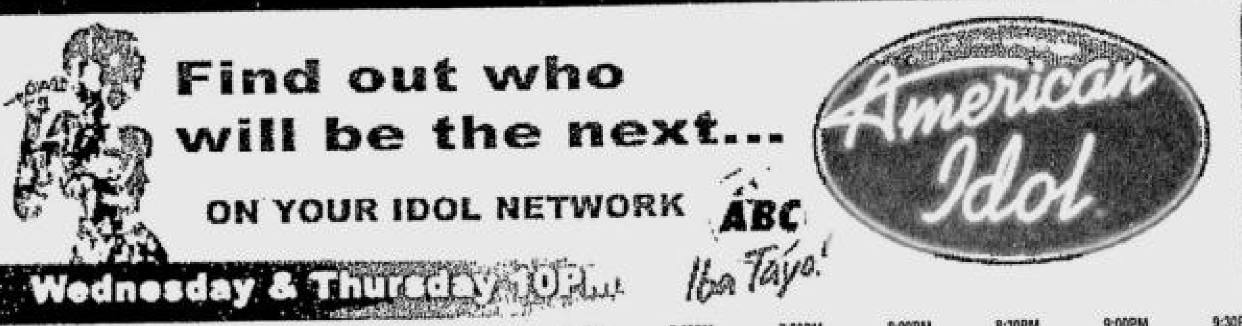
New Balance worldwide sales increased from $200 million in 1991 to $1.5 billion in 2004. It employs more than 2,600 people around the globe.

This success is attributed to NB's continuing commitment to integrity, teamwork and customer satisfaction; performance and fit over fleeting fashions; investment in domestic manufacturing; technological innovation; and an "Endorsed By No One" philosophy which places more premium on performance and fit over the marketing pull of celebrity endorsers.

"Our mission has never been to be the biggest, but the best and that will not change as we enter our second century of business," declares Jim Davis, chair and CEO of New Balance.

Exclusively distributed by Planet Sports Inc., New Balance is available at Festival Mall, Glorietta, Planet Sports, The Athlete's Foot and at leading department stores nationwide. *(For more information, interested parties may visit http://www.newbalance.com.ph.)*

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER
TV GUIDE
Friday, February 17, 2006



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ABC 5			WNCAA (Rerun)		PBA				Sentro	PBA					Big News	So You Think You Can Dance		Real Stories	
ABS-CBN 2	Kapamilya Cinema				Little Amy	Mr. Bean	Naruto	Amazing Twins	Meteor Garden Season 2	TV Patrol World	Gulong Ng Palad	Mga Anghel Na Walang Langit	Pinoy Big Brother	Vietnam Rose	Forbidden Love	Kung Fu Fight Nights			Insider
AXN		Nuremberg				Worst Case Scenario		Lost		24		Gamemax	E Buzz	Jumanji				Alien Hunter	
Cartoon Network	Johnny Bravo	Dexter's Laboratory	Tom & Jerry Show		Baby Looney Tunes	Codename Kids Next Door	Foster's Home For Imaginary Friends	The Grim Adventures Of Billy & Mandy	Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles	Power Rangers Wild Force	The Gransazers	Battle B-Daman	Energy Bomb	X-Men Evolution	Samurai Jack	Justice League	Static Shock	Power Rangers Wild Force	The Gransazers
Cinema One		Sa Hirap At Ginhawa				Kung Ako Na Lang Sana				Hinahanap-Hanap Kita				Mariano Mison Story				Sugatang Puso	
Cinemax			Balmain Boys			Guarding Tess			Tough Luck			Buffalo Soldiers			Dead Cannons (9:35 PM)			Just Cause	
CNN				Business International		World News	World Sport	Larry King Live		Business International		World News Asia		World News	World Sport	World News Asia		World News	World Sport
Discovery Channel		Extreme Engineering		Why Intelligence Fails		Beyond Tomorrow		More Than Human		Rides		American Chopper		Beyond Tomorrow		Mostly True Stories		Crime Night	
Disney Channel	Mr. Bean The Animated Series	Totally Spies	Art Attack/Un-lakative Bunny	Mickey Mouse and Friends	Lilo & Stitch	Sabrina, The Animated Series	Totally Spies	Kim Possible	Mr. Bean The Animated Series	That's So Raven	Wonderful World Of Disney			Brandy & Mr. Whiskers		Mickey Mouse and Friends	Chip N Dale's Rescue Ranger	Wonderful World Of Disney	
ESPN		Pro Billiards '04 Skins Billiards C'ships		Table Tennis 2003 Killerspin Extreme	World Snooker Tour Grand Prix						2005 WPBA Cuetec Cup Nat'l 9-BALL Championship	Sportscenter Asia	Boxing Series Friday Night Fights				Sportscenter Asia	Pool Snooker Mosconi Cup 2005	Sportscenter Asia
ETC		For Love Or Money 3		Change of Heart	Elimidate	Blind Date	Fifth Wheel	Seinfeld	Ambush Makeover	The Tyra Banks Show		Joan Of Arcadia		American Dreams 2		Entertainment Tonight	The Insider	The Tonight Show With Jay Leno	
EWTN	The Word Was Made Flesh	Angelus (3:15 PM)	The Donut Man	Angel Force	Suffering And The Love Of God	Rosary With Mother Angelica	Stations Of The Cross	EWTN Gallery	Super Saints	Life on The Rock Encore		Marriage Works in Christ	Defending Life	Daily Mass (SAP) Live		Angelus (10:15PM)	Holy Spirit In The Church	Father Corapi And The Catechism Of Catholic Church	
Fox News		Hannity & Colmes		On The Record With Greta Van Susteren		The O'Reilly Factor		Your World With Neil Cavuto		Fox & Friends						Fox News Live			
GMA 7	Kung Mamahalin Mo Lang Ako	Now and Forever	First Love Of A Royale Prince		Dragonball Z	Great Teacher Onizuka	La Robe de Mariage	24 Oras		Extra Challenge	Sugo	Etheria	Starstruck 3	Jewel In The Palace		Bubble Gang			Saksi
Hallmark Channel	Bewitched	Judging Amy		Jane Doe Till Death Do Us Part (3.50 PM)			Who's The Boss? II	Bewitched	The Nanny	Strong Medicine		Judging Amy		Midsomer Murders Death Of A Stranger			Doc Martin (10:35PM)		Strong Medicine (11:25PM)
HBO			The Flintstones (Movie)			Mask (5.15 PM)				The Craft (7:15PM)				White Chicks			Taking Lives (10:45PM)		
IBC 13		EZ Shop				Home Shopping Network	IBC Express Balita	Manny Pacquiao Sports Idol		Retro TV	Good Take	Travel	Global Family Series	Japan Video Topics		Japan Video Topics	IBC News Tonite	Home Shopping Network	
JackTV	Primetime Glick	The Late Show David Letterman		Jack In The Box				Megas XLR	Beat The Geeks	Mad TV		That 70s Show	Arrested Development	The Late Show David Letterman		The Daily Show With Jon Stewart	Premium Blend	Reno 911	Insomniac W Dave Attell
Lifestyle Network	Country Style	Interiors By Design	Decorating With Style	Decorating Cents	Molto Mario	Sweet Dreams	30 Minute Meals	Bill Boggs Corner	Unwrapped	Ming's Quest	Intimate Portrait		Behind The Velvet Ropes	Life & Style		Guess Who's Coming To Decorate		Iron Chef America	
MTV Philippines	MTV Hits	5 Things About	MTV Hits		Trippin	Pop Inc		MTV Hits		50 Cent House Party		Get Hitch'd	Get Spotted	Diyes		Handpicked: Mick Foley	Trippin	Videography	VH1 Video Collections
MYX		Rock MYX	My MYX	Mellow MYX	Urban MYX	Take 5	OPM MYX	MYX Firsts	Star MYX	MYXILOG	Pop MYX	MYX Daily Top Ten		Club MYX	MYX Versions	Urban MYX	My MYX	MYX Backtrax	OPM MYX
National Geographic	Wild Family Secrets	Explorations Powered By Duracell	Rough Trades	Amazing Moments		Battle Of The Arctic Giants		Top 5 - Mysterious Universe		Wow!		About Asia		National Geographic Specials		Explorations Powered By Duracell	Rough Trades	Amazing Moments	
NBN		Value Vision		New Life TV Shopping		Teledyaryo	Diyos Ko, Mahal Mo Ba Sila?	GSIS Member's Hour		Tinig ng Bayan (Live)		Teledyaryo				Auto Focus		Bantay OCW With Susan K	
Nickelodeon	Chalkzone	Hey Arnold!	Rocket Power	Four Eyes	My Life As A Teenage Robot	SpongeBob SquarePants	The Fairly Odd Parents	Drake & Josh	Naturally Sadie	Romeo	All That	All Grown Up	As Told By Ginger	Four Eyes	My Life As A Teenage Robot	The Adventures Jimmy Neutron	The Fairly Odd Parents	My Dad The Rock Star	
PBO			Akala Mo				Lovelife		Misis mo, Misis ko				Pasan Ko Ang Daigdig				Bugbog Sarado		
Qtv	Ikaw Lang Ang Mamahalin		Striker Hungry Heart	The Prince Of Tennis	MMS (My Music Station)		Moms		Love At Aegean Sea	Hotelier	All In	Laugh To Laugh Ang Kulit	Ganda Ng Lola Ko		News On Q	Love Life		MINT (Music Interactive)	
RPN 9	TV Shopping		Defenders Of The Earth	Global Window	Krusada Kontra Kamon			Entertainment Tonight	The Insider	WWE Smackdown		Cold Case		Medium		Newswatch Now	TV Greats On Friday		
SBN 21				New Life TV Shopping				Winner TV Shopping				Oras Ng Himala		Oras ng Kaluwalhatian		Shepherds Voice		SBN Music Video	
Solar Sports							NBA Special '05 NBA All Star Game					NBA Game 76ers @ Bulls					Sportsdesk	All-England Semifinals	
Sports Plus				World Game		ACC Basketball Duke @ Wake Forest				Celebrity Poker Tournament 3				BD Costa Rica	Wild Side	Inside the PGA	Golf Today	Nissan Open Day1	
Star Movies			Sense And Sensibility (3:45 PM)					Lethal Seduction			Confessions Of A Teenage Drama Queen			Raising Helen				Nine Months	
Star World	8 Simple Rules	The Bold & The Beautiful		General Hospital		Angel		The Simpsons/American Idol 2006	Malcolm In The Middle	Star News Asia	Friends (Series 10)	TNA Wrestling/American Idol 2006		The Collector		NYPD Blue		Friends (Series 10)	Walker Texas Ranger/American Idol 2006
Studio 23		Rave						The Batman	Justice League Unlimited	Wazzup Wazzup		Survivor Guatemala		Barkada Nights		News Central	Oprah		Just Shoot Me

TV SCHEDULES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE.

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or email us at pr_lifestyle@inquirer.com.ph

LIFESTYLE

Editor Chelo Banal-Formoso

MONDAY ARTS & BOOKS ● TUESDAY FITNESS ● WEDNESDAY 2BU ● THURSDAY FOOD ● FRIDAY FA

Scent of a woman

Kris
KRIS AQUINO
bench_BODY
eau de toilette
1.7 fl.oz./50mL
Love me
Hug me
Baby me
bench_BODY
body spray

By Alex Y. Vergara

THE "QUEEN of Talk" does a Sarah Jessica Parker. RYAN LIM

SHE HAS PEDDLED ANYthing and everything—from beer to makeup, malls to canned goods, cosmetic procedures to cell phone providers—that her face has now become a familiar and ubiquitous sight on television, billboard and print ads.

Just when everyone thought she had run out of stuff to endorse, Kris Aquino is now lending her celebrity status to what might be the biggest product yet named after her and built around her image—the Kris Aquino Fragrance Collection by Bench.

The "Billboard Queen," together with Bench's main man, Ben Chan, recently launched "Kris" at the Glorietta and later at SM Megamall. The brand clearly targets the young female market, as the Glorietta launch featured such hot bands and babe magnets as Sponge Cola and Hale. Meanwhile, young baladeer Christian Bautista graced the Megamall edition.

The collection includes three body spray variants with such amorous and provocative names as Baby Me, Hug Me and Love Me, and a top-of-the-line eau de toilette (EDT) named simply Kris.

And like in all her undertakings (be it her TV shows or her string of love affairs), Aquino was passionately involved in every stage of the collection's production. She even had a hand in the collection's packaging and its launch.

It reportedly took French experts from Grasse, France, almost a year to select various fragrance oils and formulate a finished product—a bottle of EDT that captures a unique blend of grapefruit and mandarin with a twist of floral and warm vanilla.

"The fragrances reflect her personality," says Chan. "Once you smell them, especially the EDT, you will think of her."

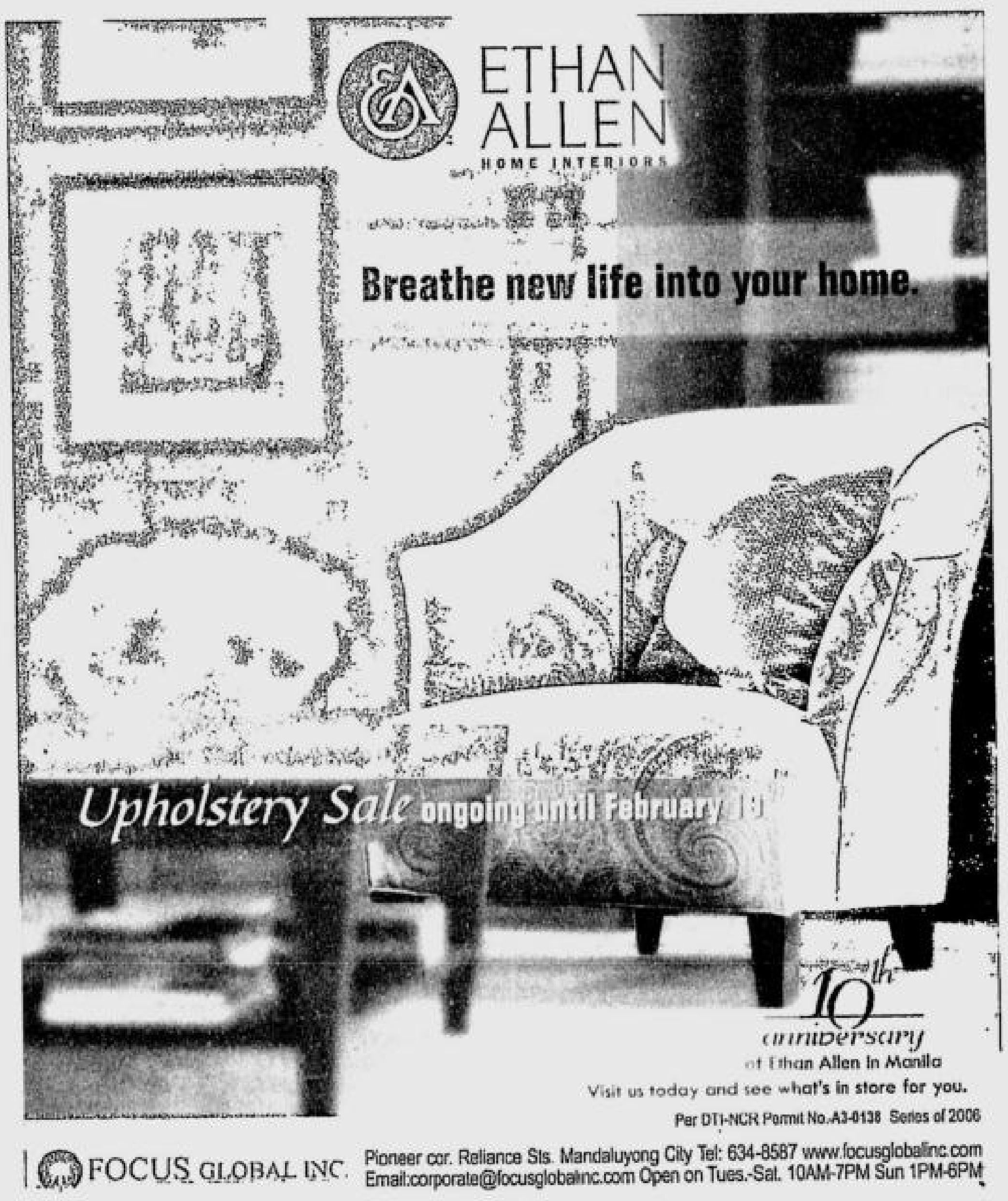
Despite being an open book, it seems there are still facets of the candid Aquino that the public has yet to see. These unseen traits, says Chan, are what make her such a joy to be with.

"You'll see the real Kris especially when you get the chance to travel with her abroad," he says. "She's such a character. In spite of her popularity, she has remained so down to earth and so much fun to be with."

The launch, by the way, was timed to coincide with Aquino's birthday last Feb. 14. Kris, the perfume, heralds the start of other spin-off products built around the celebrity's name. Next on the TV superstar's list is a magazine named after her, like Oprah Winfrey's O.

For a person with such a big presence and an equally big following, it seems a slew of billboards isn't enough.

E-mail the author at avergara@inquirer.com.ph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Your relationship to the Subscriber on Record:
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Your mobile phone no.:
Your birthdate (MM/DD/YY):
Sign here ✓

Write 3 choices of your log-on username.
Make sure your username has 6-10 alphanumeric characters.
For example, michael88

1st Choice:
2nd Choice:
3rd Choice:

NOW FAX THIS FORM TO (02)864-3461

Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 4404 Series of 2005
See flyers for details

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PLDT

A True "Save Your Hair" Story from Svenson

BEFORE

She Found the Cure for her Hair Loss!

"When I was a child, I used a certain solution to treat my unhealthy scalp. As time went on, I lost so much hair that I almost became bald! I even wore a wig but was always teased because it looked fake. I just wanted to disappear because I couldn't stand the insults. My life completely changed: for many years, I became less confident and less active in dealing with people -- I couldn't be my normal self. But when I went to Svenson, I found hope for my hair loss. Through their treatments, my hair started to re-grow with thicker strands. As it grows longer, I'm starting to feel more confident again. I'm very happy that my hair is back to normal and I can finally be myself again. Svenson is my answered prayer for restoring my hair!"
- Jennifer Callanta

Call Svenson for a FREE hair and scalp check-up. Save your hair now!

WOMEN AT Svenson

CALL 892-HAIR (4247)

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TOMAS MORATO 3/F CKB Center
BINONDO 11/F Federal Tower Bldg.
ALABANG 4/F Citibank-Frabelle Bldg.
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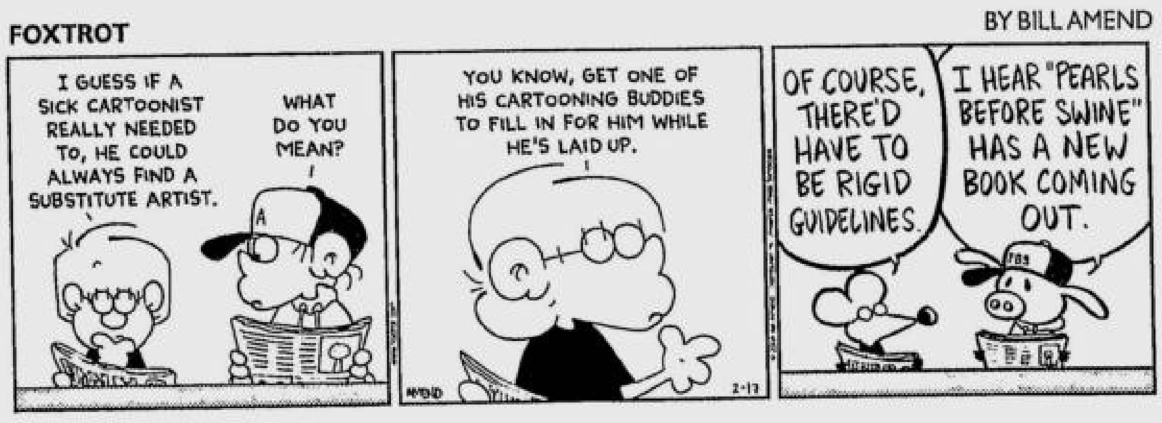
COMICRelief

e-mail feedback at arts@inquirer.com.ph

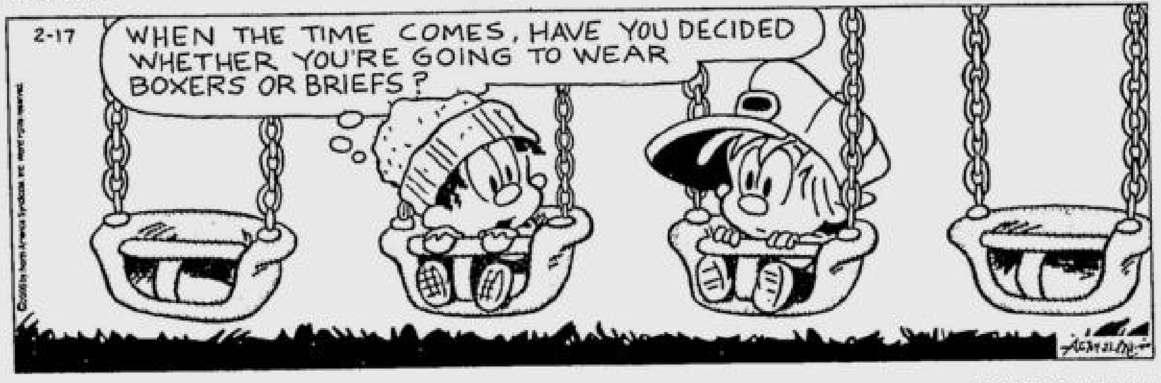
FOXTROT

BY BILL AMEND


I GUESS IF A SICK CARTOONIST REALLY NEEDED TO, HE COULD ALWAYS FIND A SUBSTITUTE ARTIST.
WHAT DO YOU MEAN?
YOU KNOW, GET ONE OF HIS CARTOONING BUDDIES TO FILL IN FOR HIM WHILE HE'S LAID UP.
2-17
OF COURSE, THERE'D HAVE TO BE RIGID GUIDELINES.
I HEAR "PEARLS BEFORE SWINE" HAS A NEW BOOK COMING OUT.

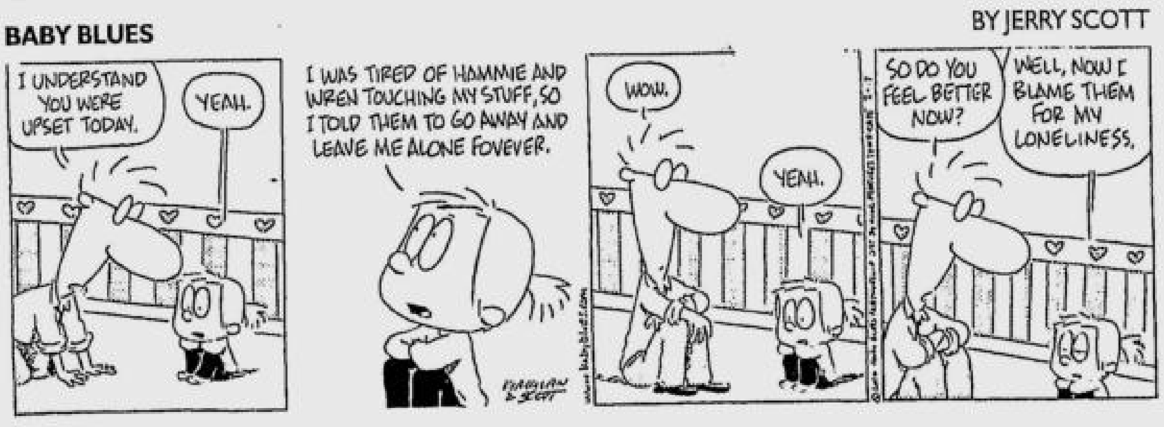
MARVIN

BY TOM ARMSTRONG


2-17
WHEN THE TIME COMES, HAVE YOU DECIDED WHETHER YOU'RE GOING TO WEAR BOXERS OR BRIEFS?

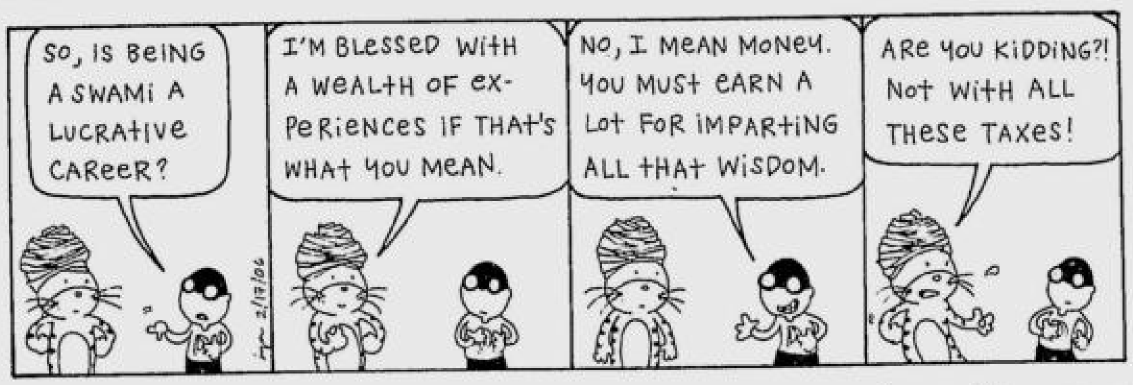
BABY BLUES

BY JERRY SCOTT


I UNDERSTAND YOU WERE UPSET TODAY.
YEAH.
I WAS TIRED OF HAMMIE AND WREN TOUCHING MY STUFF, SO I TOLD THEM TO GO AWAY AND LEAVE ME ALONE FOREVER.
WOW.
YEAH.
SO DO YOU FEEL BETTER NOW?
WELL, NOW I BLAME THEM FOR MY LONELINESS.

ATOMO AND WEBOY

BY LYRA GARCELLANO


So, is being a swami a lucrative career?
I'm blessed with a wealth of experiences if that's what you mean.
No, I mean money. You must earn a lot for imparting all that wisdom.
Are you kidding?! Not with all these taxes!
2/17/06

HOROSCOPE

BY FRANCIS DRAKE

YOU BORN TODAY: Even though you're sensitive, you have enormous driving perseverance. You know how to develop your home self-discipline. This focus helps you achieve success. You're an idealist and will always fight for the rights of the underdog. A major cycle will end this year. Let go of something in order to create room for something new to enter.

Birthdate of: Jerry O'Connell, actor; Denise Richards, actress; Paris Hilton, celebrity.

ARIES (March 21 to April 19): Finally! After six months, your ruler, Mars, finally makes a shift. Whew! You will feel this. Now you will focus less on money and more on your communications with others.

TAURUS (April 20 to May 20): For the past six months, there's been a buildup of tension within you because Mars has been in your sign all this time. (It's normally in your sign for about six weeks.) But it finally moves today. Breathe a sigh of relief!

GEMINI (May 21 to June 20): Today Mars enters your sign. This makes you energetic, assertive and ready to defend your rights. You're even ready to fight for the rights of others!

CANCER (June 21 to July 22): Keep your wits about you. There are those who might be working against your best interests. This energy will only last for about a month. Nevertheless, watch your back.

LEO (July 23 to Aug. 22): You have a desire to join a club or group now. Certainly your interaction with others will increase in the month ahead. This is a good thing. Jump right in!

VIRGO (Aug. 23 to Sept. 22): Your ambition is aroused. You want to make a name for yourself. Work hard in the month ahead, because fiery Mars will help you now!

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22): Your desire to travel and see the world is strong and growing! You also want to expand your education and your experience of the world. Sounds good to me.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21): Your passion about everything in life will grow in the next few weeks. You'll feel things intensely. You don't want to skate along on the surface of things.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21): In the month ahead, you will need greater patience and diplomacy when dealing with partners and close friends. You might think others are aggressive.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 19): You're ready to get down to hard work. You want to paint, clean, sort, organize and make a home for everything. You want the scissors when you need them.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20 to Feb. 18): The month ahead will be playful, romantic and very creative for you! If you can go on a vacation, do so. You want to have fun!

PISCES (Feb. 19 to March 20): Big changes at home are taking place. Renovations, redecorating, painting and major repairs could create chaos. Be patient with family members.

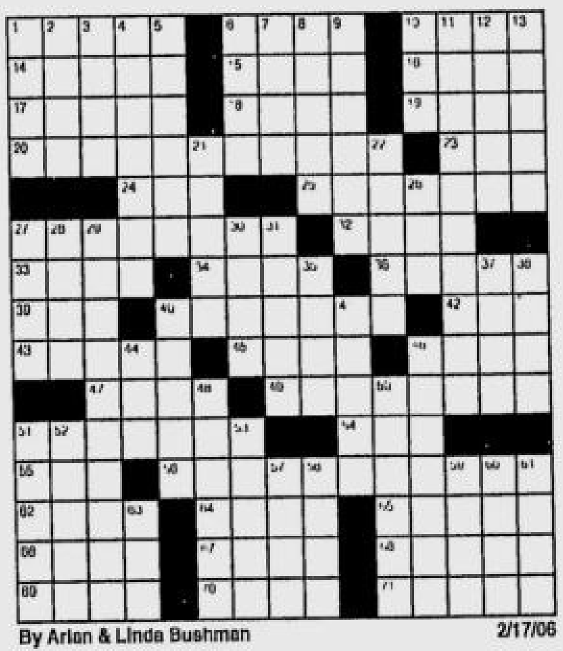
DAILY CROSSWORD

ACROSS

1 Davis of jazz
6 Sentry's shout
10 Canyon playback
14 Surefooted
15 Zion state
16 Quahog
17 Oprah rival, once
18 Notoriety
19 Seep
20 Rooster's show time
23 D.C. honcho
24 Neutral pronoun
25 Shed implements
27 Info bits
32 Medley
33 Andean tubers
34 __ Stanley Gardner
36 Boardwalk treat
39 Avalanche org.
40 Respire
42 "Inka Dinka __"
43 Silt formation
45 Oscar winner Paquin
46 Rubberneck
47 Give the boot
49 Notre Dame feature
51 Half c-notes
54 No __ intended
55 Sentence stretcher
56 Silver's following?
62 Thunderbolt wielder
64 Body of water
65 Strong-arm
66 Art Deco designer
67 Tied
68 Wanted poster information
69 Charon's river
70 Unwind
71 Never existed

DOWN

1 Artist Chagall
2 Composer Stravinsky
3 Kudrow of "Friends"
4 Calls forth
5 Have the goal of
6 Emulate the Big Bad Wolf
7 Somewhat
8 Tibetan monks
9 "Tommy" band
10 Earth-friendly prefix
11 Sundown
12 Witch __
13 Signs
21 Basketry willow
22 "48 Hrs." star
26 By way of
27 __ du Lac, WI
28 Be sore
29 Appeal to conscience
30 __ de Matteo of "Joey"
31 Street talk
35 Sicilian volcano
37 Chicken or goose
38 Coupling device
40 Fundamental
41 Madcap Marx
44 Word of reproof
46 Grand Canal sight
48 Penn pal
50 Belly laugh
51 Rattles
52 Not active
53 Italian white wine
57 Island strings, for short
58 Car mar
59 "Exodus" author
60 Peruse
61 Trial run
63 Form check box



By Arlan & Linda Bushman
Chicago, IL

2/17/06

Thursday's Puzzle Solved

S	N	O	B	■	W	A	R	S	A	W	■	B	A	S
P	A	A	R	■	A	R	I	O	S	O	■	A	V	A
I	T	S	E	A	S	I	E	R	T	O	■	R	E	L
T	O	T	E	M	■	A	I	R	■	I	S	E	R	E
■	■	■	C	O	U	■	■	■	A	N	O	N	Y	M
D	O	T	H	E	J	O	B	R	I	G	H	T	■	■
A	M	A	■	B	O	R	E	A	L	■	I	S	L	A
M	E	L	B	A	■	B	A	N	■	E	O	S	I	N
A	N	K	A	■	T	I	N	G	E	S	■	E	L	O
■	■	T	H	A	N	T	O	E	X	P	L	A	I	N
S	Q	U	I	N	T	■	■	■	T	I	A	■	■	■
A	U	R	A	S	■	E	D	U	■	E	D	I	E	S
O	A	K	■	W	H	Y	Y	O	U	D	I	D	N	T
N	I	E	■	A	M	E	N	D	S	■	D	A	D	A
E	L	Y	■	R	O	D	E	O	S	■	A	S	S	T

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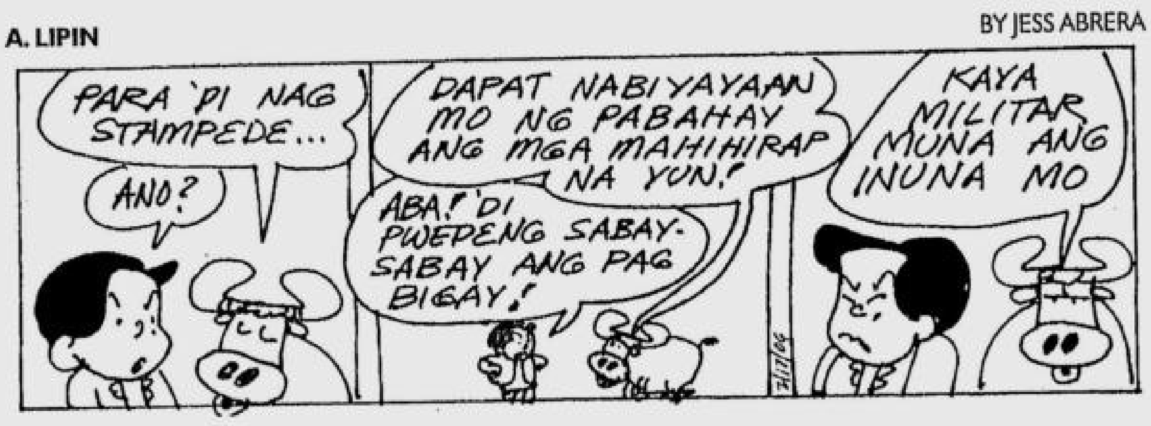
2/17/06

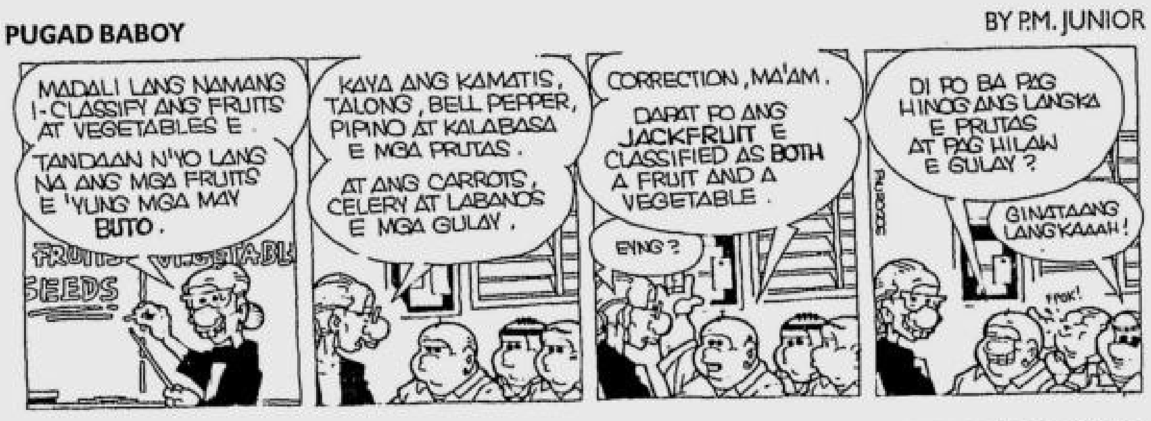
A. LIPIN

BY JESS ABRERA


PARA 'DI NAG STAMPEDE...
ANO?
DAPAT NABIYAYAAN MO NG PABAHAY ANG MGA MAHIHIRAP NA YUN!
ABA! 'DI PWEDENG SABAY-SABAY ANG PAG BIGAY!
KAYA MILITAR MUNA ANG INUNA MO

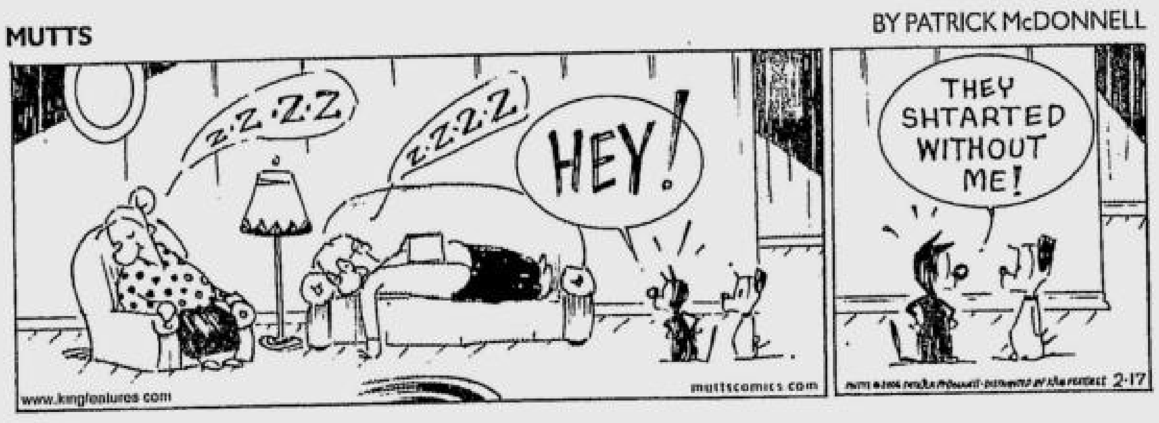
PUGAD BABOY

BY P.M. JUNIOR


MADALI LANG NAMANG I-CLASSIFY ANG FRUITS AT VEGETABLES E.
TANDAAN N'YO LANG NA ANG MGA FRUITS E 'YUNG MGA MAY BUTO.
FRUITS VEGETABLES
SEEDS
KAYA ANG KAMATIS, TALONG, BELL PEPPER, PIPINO AT KALABASA E MGA PRUTAS.
AT ANG CARROTS, CELERY AT LABANOS E MGA GULAY.
CORRECTION, MA'AM.
DAPAT PO ANG JACKFRUIT E CLASSIFIED AS BOTH A FRUIT AND A VEGETABLE.
EYNG?
DI PO BA PAG HINOG ANG LANGKA E PRUTAS AT PAG HILAW E GULAY?
GINATAANG LANGKAAAH!
TPOK!

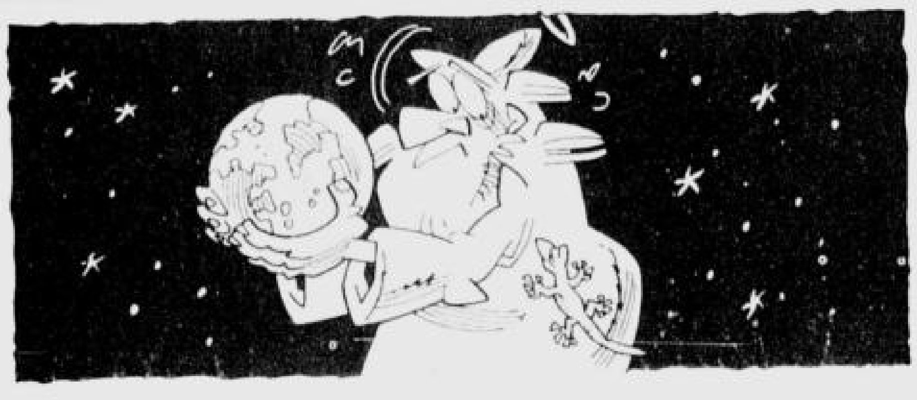
MUTTS

BY PATRICK McDONNELL


Z·Z·Z·Z
Z·Z·Z·Z
HEY!
THEY SHTARTED WITHOUT ME!
www.kingfeatures.com
muttscomics.com
2-17

DIVINE COMEDY

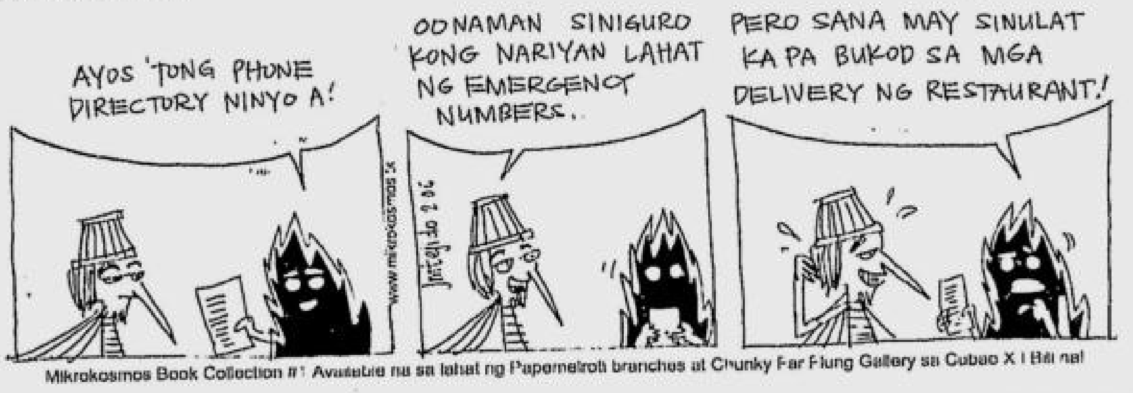
BY STEVEN PABALINAS



HE'S GOT THE WHOLE WORLD IN HIS HANDS

MIKROKOSMOS

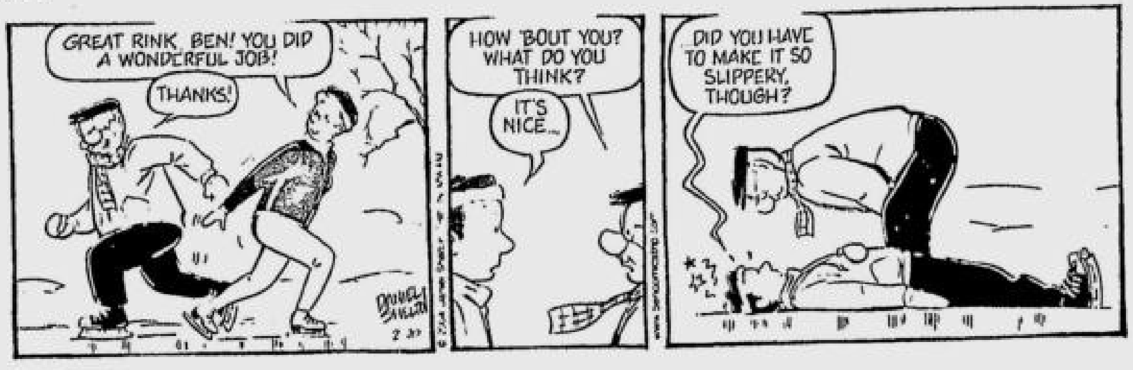
BY JOMIKE TEJIDO


AYOS 'TONG PHONE DIRECTORY NINYO A!
OO NAMAN SINIGURO KONG NARIYAN LAHAT NG EMERGENCY NUMBERS.
PERO SANA MAY SINULAT KA PA BUKOD SA MGA DELIVERY NG RESTAURANT!
www.mikrokosmos.ph

Mikrokosmos Book Collection #1 Available na sa lahat ng Papemelroti branches at Chunky Far Flung Gallery sa Cubao X ! Bili na!

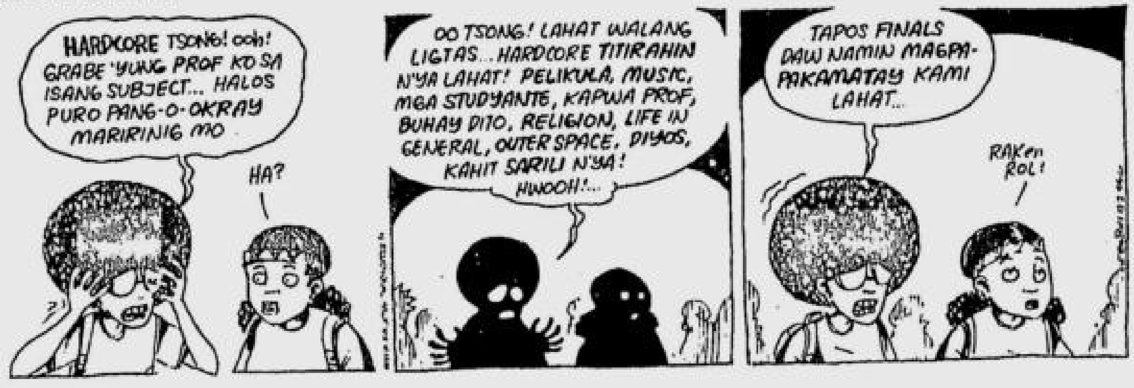
BEN

BY DANIEL SHELTON


GREAT RINK, BEN! YOU DID A WONDERFUL JOB!
THANKS!
HOW 'BOUT YOU? WHAT DO YOU THINK?
IT'S NICE...
DID YOU HAVE TO MAKE IT SO SLIPPERY, THOUGH?

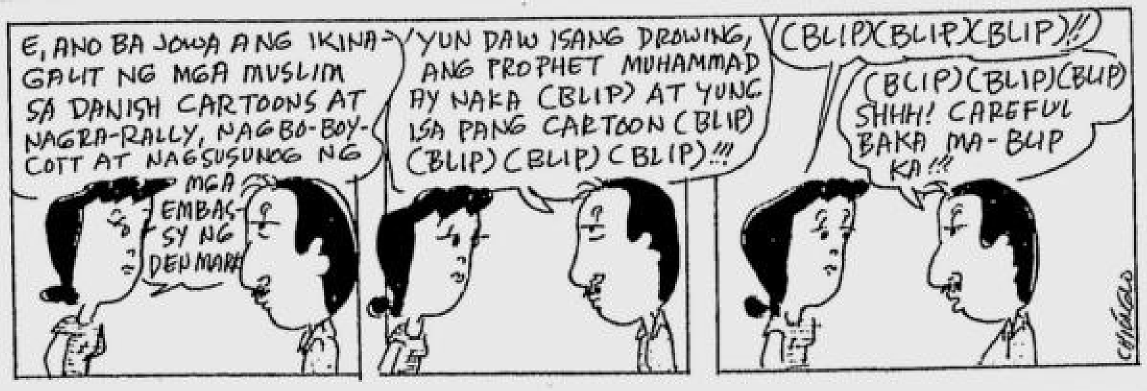
KIKO MACHINE

BY MANIX ABRERA


HARDCORE TSONG! ooh! GRABE 'YUNG PROF KO SA ISANG SUBJECT... HALOS PURO PANG-O-OKRAY MARIRINIG MO
HA?
OO TSONG! LAHAT WALANG LIGTAS... HARDCORE TITIRAHIN N'YA LAHAT! PELIKULA, MUSIC, MGA STUDYANTE, KAPWA PROF, BUHAY DITO, RELIGION, LIFE IN GENERAL, OUTER SPACE, DIYOS, KAHIT SARILI N'YA! HWOOH!...
TAPOS FINALS DAW NAMIN MAGPA-PAKAMATAY KAMI LAHAT...
RAKen ROL!

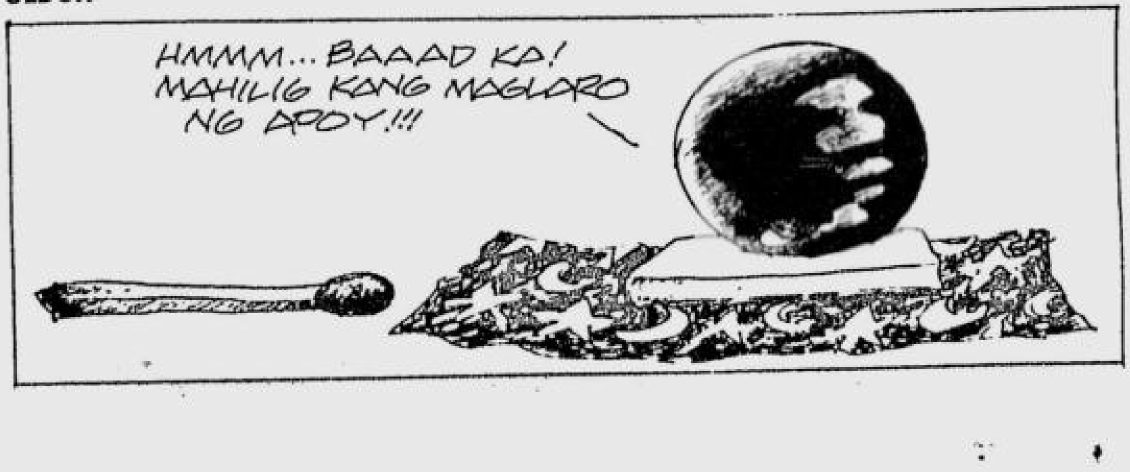
LOVEKNOTS

BY ELIZABETH CHIONGLO


E, ANO BA JOWA ANG IKINA-GALIT NG MGA MUSLIM SA DANISH CARTOONS AT NAGRA-RALLY, NAGBO-BOY-COTT AT NAGSUSUNOG NG MGA EMBAS-SY NG DENMARK
'YUN DAW ISANG DROWING, ANG PROPHET MUHAMMAD AY NAKA (BLIP) AT YUNG ISA PANG CARTOON (BLIP) (BLIP) (BLIP) (BLIP)!!!
(BLIP)(BLIP)(BLIP)!!
(BLIP)(BLIP)(BLIP) SHHH! CAREFUL BAKA MA-BLIP KA!!!
CHIONGLO

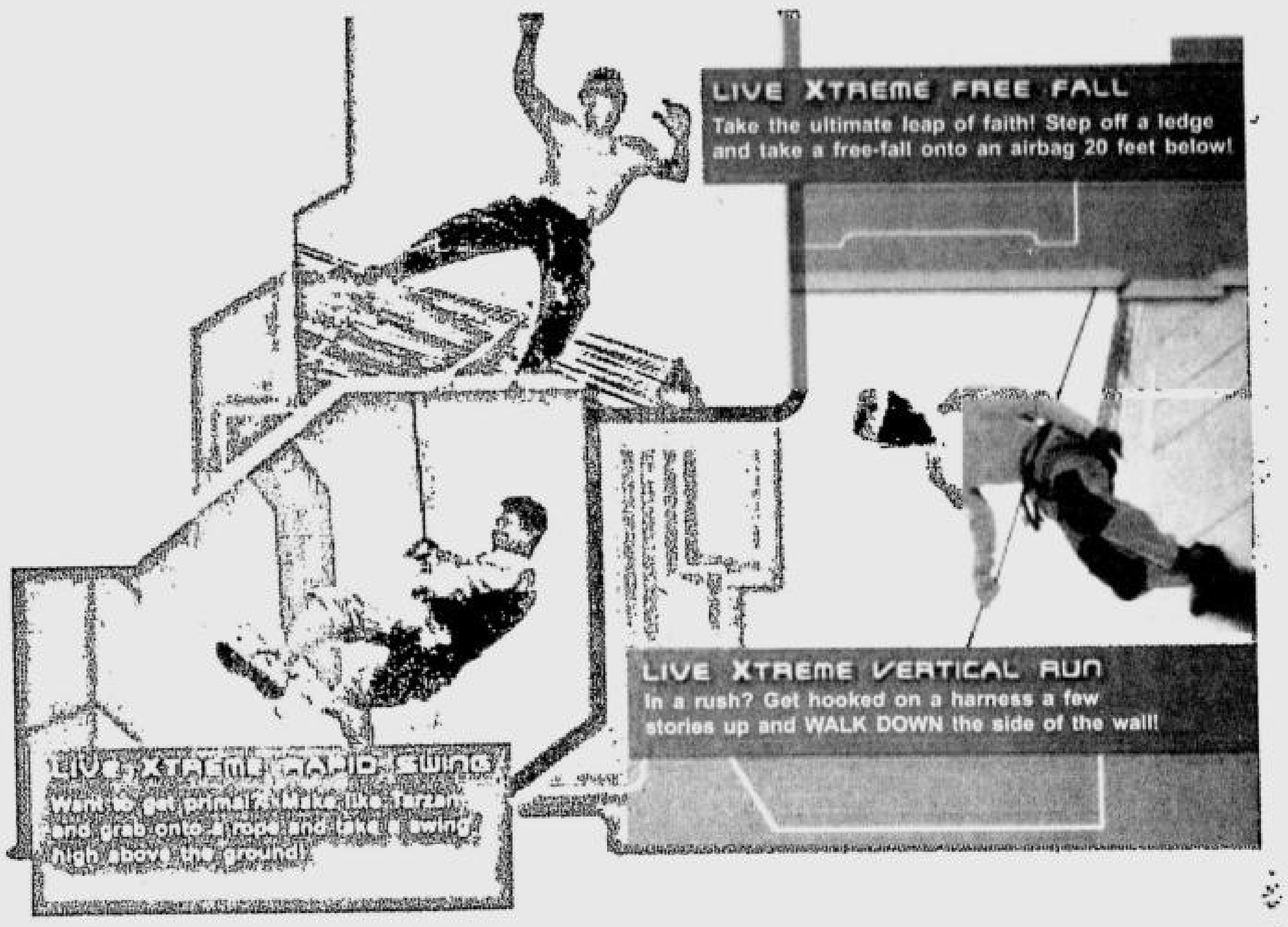
TULDOK

BY PAPU AND TATUM MILAMBILING


HMMM... BAAAD KA! MAHILIG KANG MAGLARO NG APOY!!!

LIVE XTREME

WITH Rexona FOR MEN



LIVE XTREME FREE FALL
Take the ultimate leap of faith! Step off a ledge and take a free-fall onto an airbag 20 feet below!

LIVE XTREME VERTICAL RUN
In a rush? Get hooked on a harness a few stories up and WALK DOWN the side of the wall!

LIVE XTREME RAPID SWING
Want to get primal? Make like Tarzan and grab onto a rope and take a swing high above the ground!

Have you ever had that compulsion to jump onto the bus rather than wait with all the rest in the bus stop? Or did you ever want to jump in to the elevator shaft instead of riding the car down for a quicker get-away from the office? Or has it ever crossed your mind to beat traffic by hang-gliding your way from the penthouse of your building? All of us have an action hero in us. It's part of being a man.

The **new Rexona for Men** – made for extreme underarm protection – puts men's mettle for the extreme with **Live Xtreme Zone** - an over-the-top set-up designed to quench men's thirst for urban adventure. On February 23 at the Glorietta Activity Center, Rexona will whip up five wickedly insane, heart-stopping, adrenalin-pumping, and extreme activities to challenge men with tough guts, wills of steel and intense attitudes.

And the excitement continues because you can win any of these Xtreme Prizes thru SMS:

- * A Monster Truck
- * (3) Wild Bikes
- * (5) Chopper Rides
  + Php 50, 000 cash each

To join, simply purchase any Rexona for Men product and look for the promo sticker on the product pack for a raffle entry. Text REXONA FOR MEN <sticker code> (Example: REXONA FOR MEN HJKM5728) and send to 2955 for Globe/Touch Mobile/Smart/Talk n' Text/ Addict/Infinity/Sun Cellular. Promo runs until April 9, 2006.

With Rexona for Men, men all over are really living life TO THE EXTREME!

WIN XTREME PRIZES

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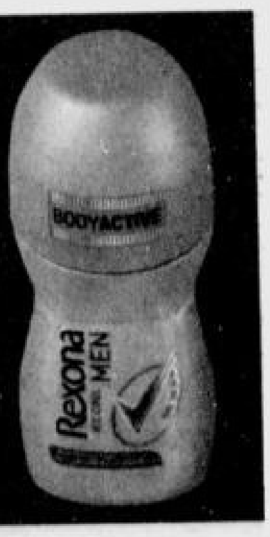

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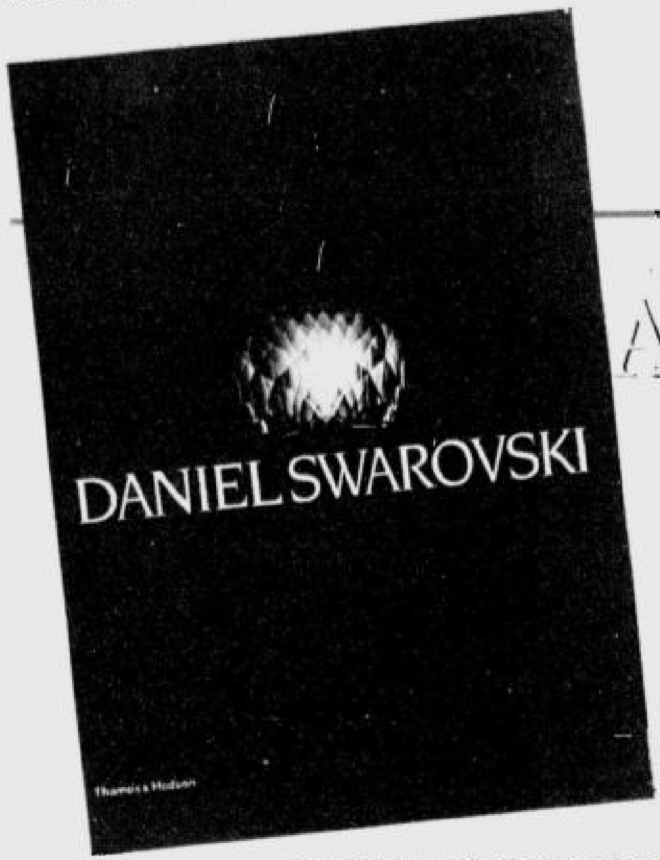
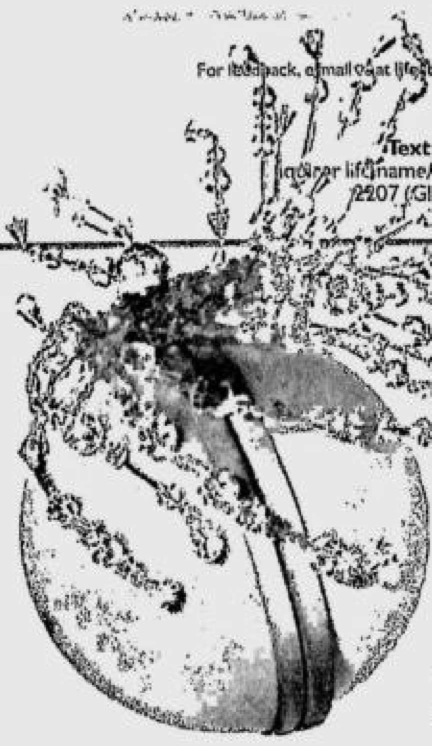


A thing of crystal is a joy forever

Swarovski comes up with a coffee-table book to memorialize advances and achievements in fashion crystal technology



HEMISHPERE BAG, from Crystal Palace collection, F/W 1993-1994. White satin and crystal pendants

By Alex Y. Vergara

THE INFINITE possibilities concerning the use of luxury cut crystals are explored by industry leader Swarovski in a 148-page coffee-table book, "Daniel Swarovski—A World of Beauty."

Launched recently in Hong Kong and published by Thames & Hudson of London, the book is the Austrian family-owned corporation's umpteenth foray into publishing. It has been a little over a decade since it last launched a book this big.

The picture-heavy book (150 images), which was edited by Vivienne Becker and Rosemarie Le Gallais, retails for approximately $75. It comes

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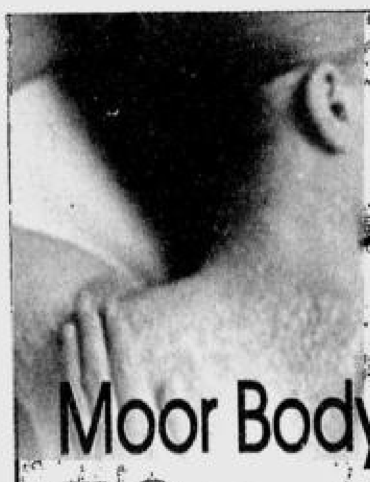

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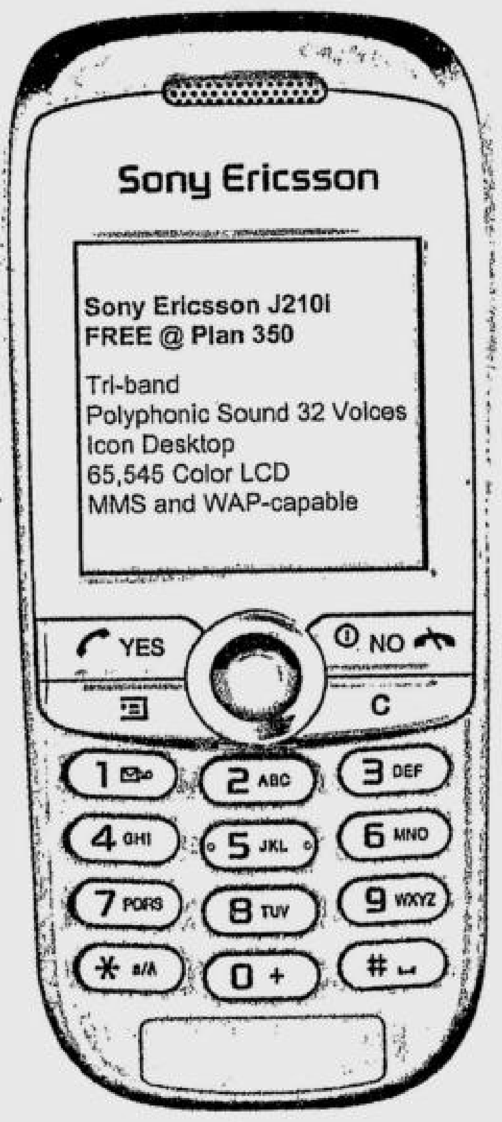

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THE NATIONAL Milo Marathon marks its 30th year of promoting fun, healthy lifestyles.

DEPED Chief of PE and School Sports Dr. Noemi Bellosillo (second from right), Publicis Manila's Charmaine Campaner, DepEd Education Supervisor Daffy Zagal, Publicis Manila's Cathy Arguelles and DepEd Education Supervisor Criselda Marte

MILO brand champion Robby Afzelius and brand assistant Jovy Lee

BAYVIEW sales and marketing director Marie Jean Paraiso Cordero and Adidas sports marketing assistant Sandro Paredes

THE ACHIEVERS. Rosa Pua, Linging and Emerson Yao, Ruth and Arnold Co of Haagen Dazs and Max Brenner

EXPATS Martin Cook, HSBC SVP and head of personal financial services, and Christopher Zimmer, GM-Phils. of Lufthansa German Airlines

FRENCH Consul for culture François Blamont and Aurelio Montinola, BPI president

JENNY Peña, Intercon PR director; Malou Francisco, marketing and communications manager, Stores Specialists Inc.; Carmela Bocanegra, director for sales and marketing, Intercon; Eve Cayaban, president, Cruise Professionals Inc.

ELIZABETH Lee, Frannie Jacinto, Helen Lee, Grace Glory Go, southern gal Liela Salgado, Lita Potassy and Rita Dy, hotshot manager of Singapore Airlines

MARISA Orosa Concepcion, Arthur Young, president and CEO, PSI Technologies Inc.; Joey Concepcion, president and CEO, RFM Corp.; and Ramon "RJ" Jacinto

The race is on

WITHOUT BATTING AN EYELASH

Maurice Arcache

Photos by **Alex Van Hagen** using **Kodak** EasyShare system

FINALLY, OUR COUNTRY IS BECOMING health-conscious, and it's about time, too, *palanggas*.

Expect more Filipinos to take to the streets all in the name of a healthy lifestyle. Milo is all set to celebrate the 30th wow! year of the awesome National Milo Marathon.

The race will be staged in 30 cities nationwide, giving a greater number of Filipinos the opportunity to get in the roll and enjoy an active and stress-free lifestyle, dahlings.

The nationwide event was recently launched during a lunch that was attended by hotshot Nestlé executives, its partners, and race organizers.

The Nestlé gang was led by **Eugene David**, senior vice president and business executive manager for beverage adult health and wellness business unit; **Michelle Calo**, Nestlé AVP and consumer marketing manager for Milo; and **Pat Goc-ong**, Milo sports events executive.

Other health enthusiasts were Department of Education supervisors **Criselda Marte** and **Daffy Zagala**; national race organizer **Rudy Biscocho**; and 2005 Milo Marathon super champs **Cresenciano Sabal** and **Jho-an Banayag**.

"We are of course excited that on our 30th year, we are bringing the Milo Marathon to 30 cities across the country, and getting our young athletes interested in a healthier lifestyle," Eugene D. told us.

It's common knowledge, *palanggas*, that Milo's yearly National Milo Marathon is a landmark event that attracts health buffs from all walks of life, regardless of age, gender and social status. Whether they are marathon champions, seasoned runners, hot celebrities or regular folks, people have joined the Milo marathon for the sake of better health.

The race got on the roll last Jan. 29 in Kidapawan. It was later launched in Tagbilaran. Last Feb. 12, it was launched in Batangas. Other launchings: Feb. 19 in Dumaguete; Feb. 26 in Puerto Princesa, Palawan; March 5 in Lucena; and June 25 in Roxas.

In *Manille*, the race will be held on July 16; in Bacolod on July 23. The grand national finals will shake the town on Dec. 10, *palanggas*.

The marathon will have all sorts of events: from the 3K Kiddie Run to the provincial and *Manille*'s elimination races. Other fun events: the biggest school delegation contest and the exciting cheer-dance competition. Some 182,000 runners are expected to compete in the races.

Throwing in their total support for the fab event were Bayview Park Hotel sales and marketing director **Marie Jean Paraiso Cordero** and Adidas sports marketing assistant **Sandro Paredes**, Cebu Pacific and PowerBar.

Yearbook launched

The 2006 Philippines Yearbook was launched at the swinging Bahia at the top of the Hotel InterContinental Manila.

The annual publication is awaited by the business world and lovers of coffee-table books; it has been published by the Fookien Times since 1936.

This year's theme centers on Filipino values and features 52 awesome outstanding figures in the country, as well as fantastic essays and artworks from top-of-the-line hot writers and talented artists, *palanggas*.

For its launch, the special guest was the presidential daughter, the low-profile but brilliant **Luli Macapagal-Arroyo**.

During the fun cocktails attended by more than 500 invitees, the fab performance of **Isha** had everyone at the edge of their seats; she was given a thunderous applause.

Present were hotshot bank presidents, corporation chairs, chic diplomatic corps, and high-profile personalities such as Miss International **Precious Lara Quigaman**; Rep. **Miles Roces**; Shop Smart's first couple, **Crickette Yu** and **Donnie Tantoco**; International Bank CEO **Ramon Sy**; RFM Corp. president and CEO **Joey Concepcion** with his wife, head-turner **Marisa Orosa C.**; Cinderella's hotshots **Therese Coronel Santos** and her son, **Ritchie S.**; Australia's Qantas Airways manager **Honeybee Hubahib**; and beautiful working couple **Ruth Velasco** and husband **Arnold Co** of Haagen Dasz, Max Brenner and Zhonannhai Resto.

The brightest stars of the night were the mother-and-son tandem of dame **Grace Glory Go**, chair of the board of the Philippine Yearbook, and son, the gifted **Vernon Go**, the publishers of the book.

Assumption musical

It was eight months in the making with eight weeks of practice—all for a faster-than-you-could-bat-an-eyelash eight-minute production, *palanggas*.

The vision was to portray the fab journey of a close-knit school class of more than 50 gals in a span of eight minutes. For the past 40 years, high school pals of Batch '65, from both San Lorenzo and Herran, had kept in touch. Well, dahlings, in this age of e-mails and SMS texting, it was a piece of cake getting several former classmates together for the event of the year—their "*velada*."

Thanks to **Lory-vi Valdes**, a production number was finalized just eight weeks before D-Day.

The gals threw off their Manolo B. shoes, let their hair down, and sang and danced with bravado. Their performance was awesome before their loved ones and "worst critics"—their children (who were instructed not to hide under their chairs once they saw their moms sing and dance); grandchildren (who were commanded to keep on clapping and shouting "More! More! Bravo, *lola!*"; husbands (who were ordered not to walk out); parents (who would always be proud of their dahlings); relatives, mentors and teachers (who were asked to stop thinking where they went wrong with their students).

Now you know why this cool batch of ruby jubilarians did not leave any ruby stone unturned, *palanggas*.

The hilarious musical performance included the singing of such tunes as "I Like to Be In America," which became "I Like to Be an Assumption Girl," and other nostalgic songs.

"Imagine this. We had 40 different voices with 40 different opinions with 40 scripts, until we became one voice in the end," said the indefatigable Lory-vi, whose patience with her "present-to-day-absent-next-day-for-rehearsals" classmates has now made her a candidate for sainthood.

To assist the Ruby Reds in their eight-minute dance number was choreographer **Chito "Boy" Miguel**, who is another candidate for sainthood for his ever-smiling face in spite of his frustration. Come to think of it, heck, even the househelp and drivers learned the dance steps faster than their bosses, would you believe? Taking all the endless photos of the gals was the babe ready for action, artistic **Bern Mejia**.

The jubilee production number may be all over, but the hot ruby red gals still have to look forward to their yearly February retreats, and getting together for loads of charity work.

During their two-day chill-out at the fabulous Calatagan residence of **Susie Bayot-Ortigas**, plans were hatched to ensure 100-percent attendance to the next reunion in 2010, bringing together all alumnae from around the world! Now, dahlings, that would be an awesome production of Assumptionistas.

SUBIC race organizer and Olongapo City Vice Mayor Rolen Paulino

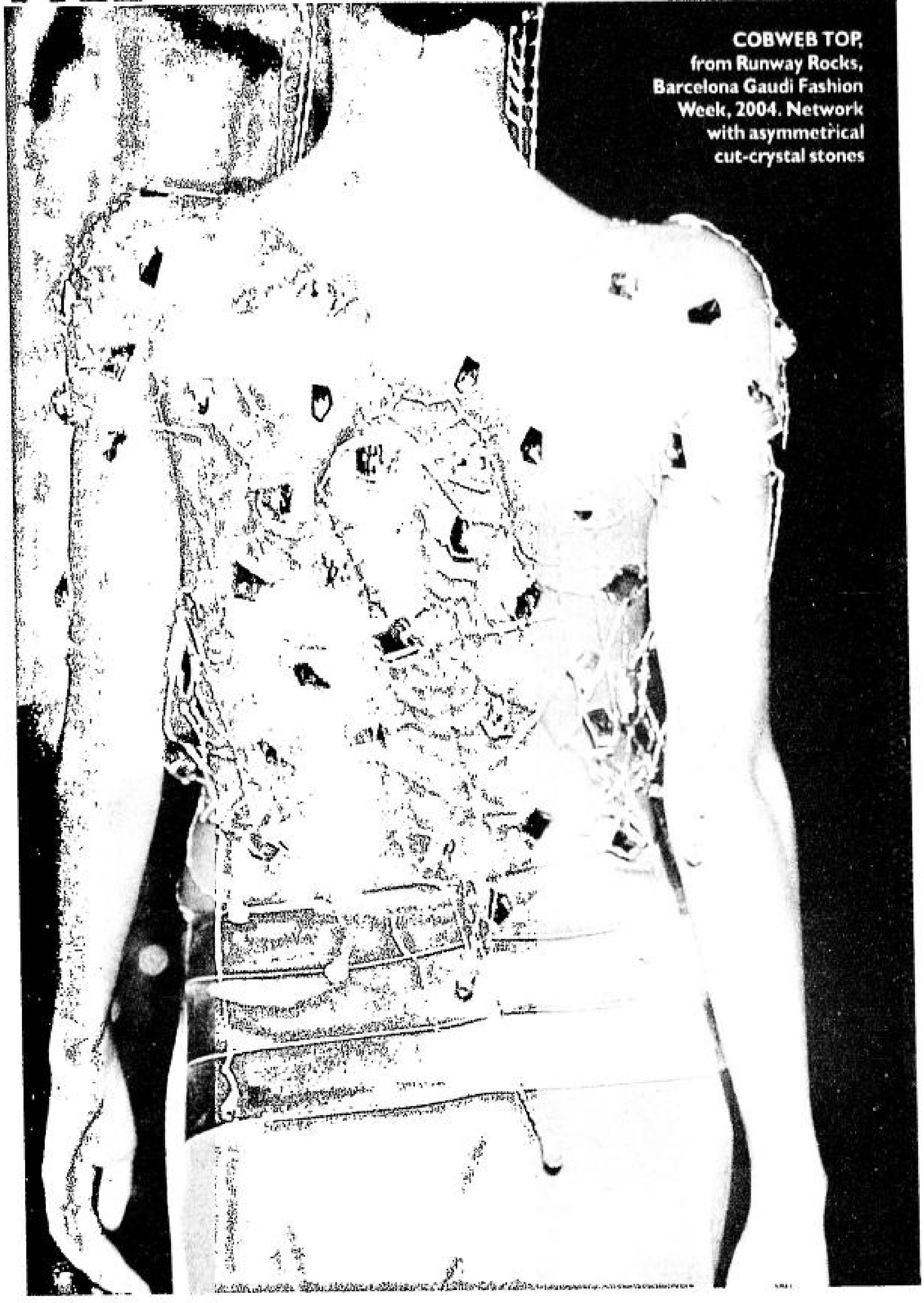
SANTIAGO and Dagupan cities race organizer Tess Bernardino

LET THE band play. Jerry Garcia, manager of The Speaks, with band members Siegfred Fuster and Raf Toledo, and presidential daughter Luli Macapagal-Arroyo

MISS INTERNATIONA
VERNON Go, publisher/editor in chief of The Philippine Yearbook, Pulp and Gusto Magazine; Miss International 2005 Precious Lara Quigaman; Christian Peradon, GM, Hotel InterContinental; and Grace Glory Go, chair of The Philippine Yearbook

THE RUBY REDS in the newly renovated and now air-conditioned Assumption College Mother Rose Hall in Makati. Front row: Mary Ann Ansaldo-Chan, Corito Ocampo-Tayag, Carmeling Cardenas, Inday Poblador, Brenda Quirolgico-Heffron, Bing Sibal-Limjoco, Mila Lichauco-Brandner, Luluday Villanueva. Second row: Dulce Festin-Baybay, Sylvia Heras-Lopez, Rose Diokno-Lopez, Lilibeth Ampil-Vistan, Claudia Escudero-Camacho, Bettina Lao, Tess Crespo-Alsua, Baby Sandico-Pascual, Third row: Carla Benares-Andaya, Baby Baluyut-Fricke, Gerry Sotto-Padilla, Tina Vargas-Quiros, Carmen de Borja-Clavecilla, Juliet Medina-Evangelista, Marianne de Ocampo-Fragante, Imelda Vistan-Castillo. Fourth row: Mao Tabunar-Cardenas, Jennifer Dayrit-Leviste, Baby Gaborro-Cruz, Maridith Veloso-Limjoco, Diutay Peñaflorida-Castro, Menchu Tantoco-Lopez, Vicki Ongpin-Perlas, Cita Gomez-San Mateo, Last row: Lory-vi Valdes

MARLY NECKLACE, from Vie Sauvage collection, F/W 2003-2004. Composition of crystal stones and fawn-colored pheasant feathers. Patchwork cuff bracelet, from South Pacific collection, S/S 2005. Tropical-colored graffiti paving



COBWEB TOP, from Runway Rocks, Barcelona Gaudi Fashion Week, 2004. Network with asymmetrical cut-crystal stones

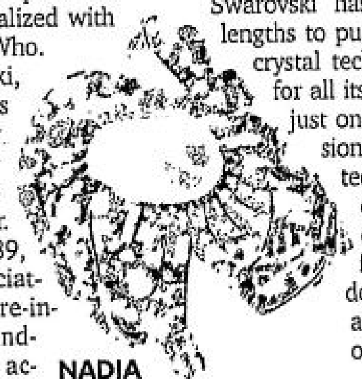
A thing of crystal is a joy forever

From page D1

in English, German, French and Italian editions. A special English edition comes with an accompanying booklet in Chinese, Korean and Japanese.

Markus Langes-Swarovski, a fifth-generation Swarovski and member of the executive board, and his wife, Caroline, graced the Asian launch at the posh IFC Mall and later socialized with the region's Who's Who.

Daniel Swarovski, of course, is Swarovski's luxury brand named after the company's visionary founder. Launched in 1989, the brand is associated with couture-inspired jewelry, handbags and fashion accessories using Swarovski's high-end crystals.



NADJA cuff bracelet, from Riviera Rock collection, S/S 2004. *Chatonnage* of cyrstal stones and turquiose

The brand's collections were inspired through the years by the company's century-long heritage of close and creative collaboration with couturiers and designers around the world. Langes-Swarovski saw it fit to chronicle these achievements without appearing like a self-serving, yawn-inducing retrospective.

"The previous book was an internal exercise presented in an almost archeological way. It depicted the pillars of Swarovski's success for the past 111 years," he says. "This time the same richness of content is there, but the new book offers more in terms of glimpses into the future."

"A World of Beauty" is divided into 15 chapters with such headings as "Poetry of Crystal," "Workshop of Dreams," "Continual Anticipation," "Glamour" and "Architect of Enchantment."

Focal order

"We have chosen to give the book a focal rather than a chronological structure," Langes-Swarovski writes in the book's foreword, "so that you can open it at any chapter, at any time, dipping in and out at will."

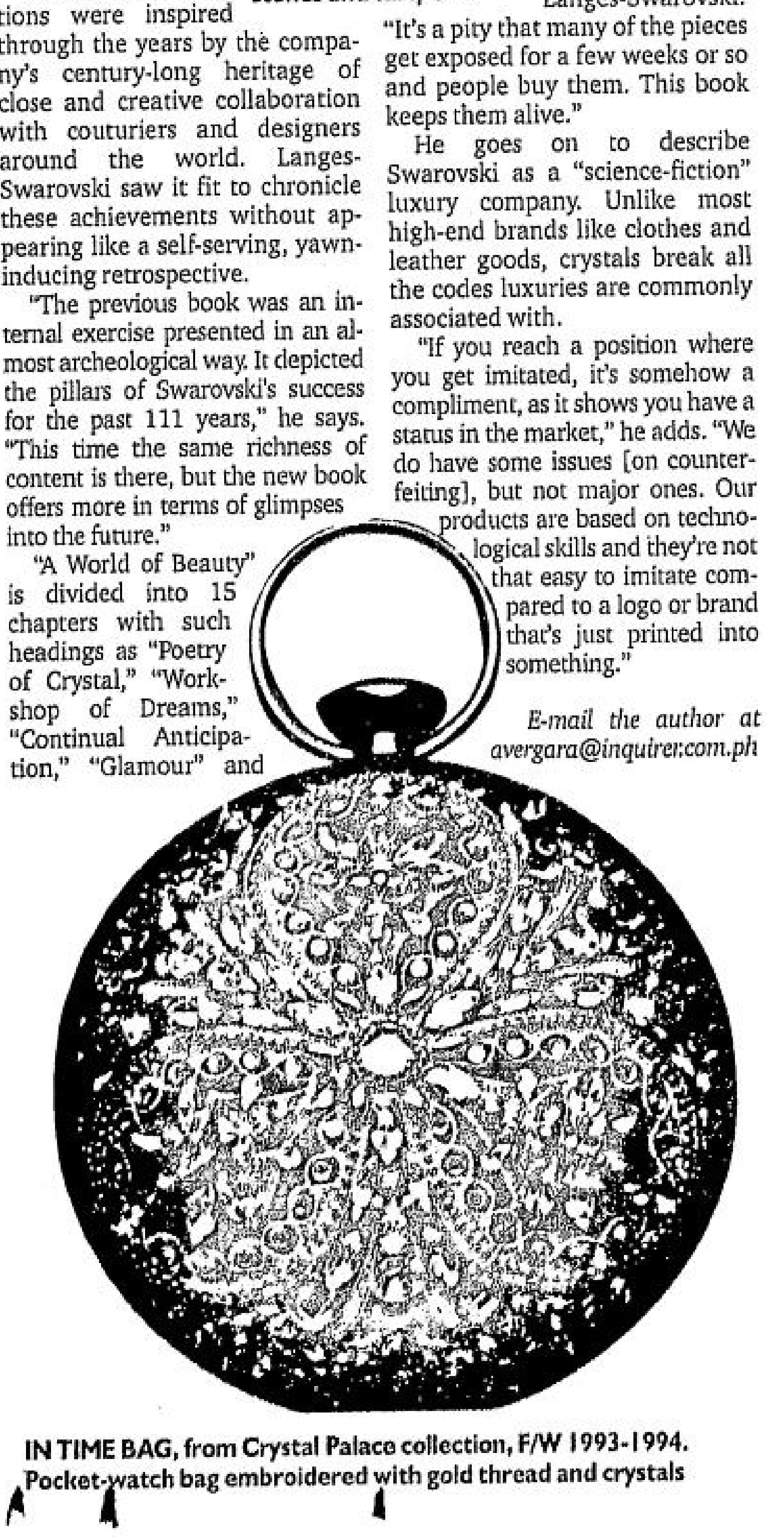
The book also attests to how Swarovski has gone to great lengths to push the borders of crystal technology. Fashion, for all its pervasiveness, is just one form of expression. Because of the technology the company has acquired and perfected through the decades, it has been able to enter various segments.

"That's also one of the reasons I launched the book," says Langes-Swarovski. "It's a pity that many of the pieces get exposed for a few weeks or so and people buy them. This book keeps them alive."

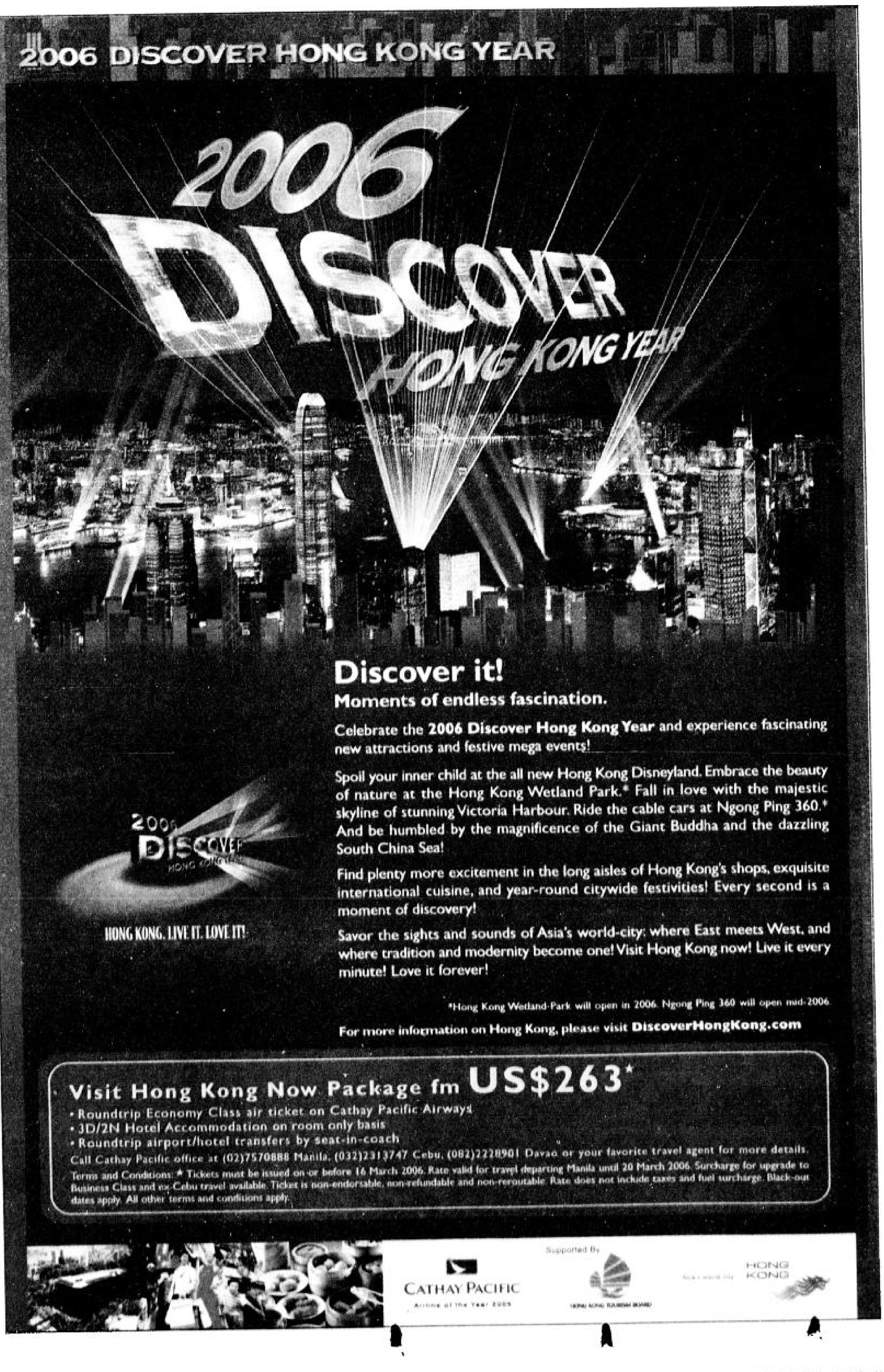
He goes on to describe Swarovski as a "science-fiction" luxury company. Unlike most high-end brands like clothes and leather goods, crystals break all the codes luxuries are commonly associated with.

"If you reach a position where you get imitated, it's somehow a compliment, as it shows you have a status in the market," he adds. "We do have some issues [on counterfeiting], but not major ones. Our products are based on technological skills and they're not that easy to imitate compared to a logo or brand that's just printed into something."

E-mail the author at avergara@inquirer.com.ph



IN TIME BAG, from Crystal Palace collection, F/W 1993-1994. Pocket-watch bag embroidered with gold thread and crystals



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Ben Affleck's bling

HOLLYWOOD ACTOR BEN Affleck is the new face of Morellato, the Italian jewelry house.

The actor said he loves Italy and everything about it. He said he believes in the efforts of Morellato to make jewelry an easy-to-wear accessory through new styles that are distinguishable and contemporary.

The new advertising campaign is photographed by Greg Gorman. The director is Tom Dey, who was behind "Shanghai Noon," starring Lucy Liu and Jackie Chan, and "Showtime," with Robert De Niro and Eddy Murphy. Ridley Scott is associate producer.

The campaign develops the Morellato slogan, "Gioielli da vivere" (jewelry for living), enhancing Affleck's stature as an actor, Oscar-winning screenplay writer, artist and celebrity.

Affleck is joined in the campaign by international soccer players Clarence Seedorf and Roberto Carlos, and Ferrari's Rubens Barichello

Founded in 1930, Morellato is Europe's leading easy-to-wear fashion jewelry.

Morellato is available at the Morellato kiosk at 4/L, The Podium; My Diamond, 2/L, Glorietta 4 (tel. 7571086); My Diamond, Shangri-La Plaza Mall (6389376); and My Diamond, Gateway Mall, Araneta Center (9124013).

BEN AFFLECK is the new face of Italian jewelry house Morellato.

Shopping malls turn love malls

GOINGS ON

AYALA MALLS ARE HOLDING THE LOV'EMALL This Valentine's Promo until Feb. 28. Every P500 purchase in Ayala Center Glorietta, Ayala Greenbelt, Alabang Town Center, Ayala Center Cebu or Market! Market! gives you a chance to win elegant His and Hers watches from Kenneth Cole, Raymond Weil and Lacoste. For the grand raffle draw, two lucky Ayala Mall shoppers can win a Colt Quartz 306 for Him and a Colt Oceane 310 for Her from Breitling. Meanwhile, Ayala Greenbelt is holding the Chocolate Festival until Feb. 28.

JUBILEE YEAR. The Christian Family Movement (CFM) marks the first visit of its founders, Patrick and Pat Crowley, to the Philippines with a Mass at 9 a.m., Feb. 26, at the University of the Philippines Parish of the Holy Sacrifice, Diliman. Call 7246747 or 4122738. Visit the CFM Nazareth Home, 6-A Big Horseshoe Drive, Horseshoe Village, QC.

CONCERT. Concert at the Park celebrates National Arts Month with "Sayaw Pinoy," featuring the Bayanihan Philippines National Folk Dance Company, Ballet Philippines and Ballet Manila. The concert will be at 6 p.m., Feb. 19, at the Rizal Park Open-air Auditorium. Call 3027374.

WORKSHOP. The Filipinas Heritage Library will host a Travel Writing workshop 6-8:30 p.m., Feb. 22, March 1, 8 and 15, Traveler and writer Kristine Fonacier will facilitate the workshop. Fee is P2,500 inclusive of materials and certificates. Deadline for registration is Feb. 20. Call 8921801.

ANNIVERSARY. Members of the University of the Philippines High School Class 1956 are invited to attend their golden anniversary, Feb. 22-28, at the UP campus. Call 8177905, 8151538, 8181387, 8131452, 0919-2505512, 7512232 and 0919-6948788.

REUNION. The Philippine Women's University will hold its 75th alumni homecoming, 4 p.m., Feb. 25, at the Grand Ballroom, Crowne Plaza Galleria, Ortigas, Mandaluyong. Theme is Glitz *na*, Glam *pa*! Call 5242610 and 5268421.

EXHIBIT. The Star Group of Malls will host "Kulay—the Shades of Art," a touring exhibit featuring paintings, sculptures and live performances by top local artists. Exhibits and paintings will be on display at 3/L, Home Area of Metropolis Star, Feb. 17-18; Starmall Edsa, Feb. 19-21; and Starmall Las Piñas, Feb. 24-25.

EXPO. Worldbex Services International (WSI) will hold its 11th annual World Building and Construction Expo, March 7-11, at the World Trade Center, Pasay. Local and foreign exhibitors are participating. Call 5316374/6350, 5343615 or 5332026.

CONFERENCE. The Philippine Librarians' Association, Inc., National Library of the Philippines and Consal XIII Executive Board/Organizing Committee will host the 13th General Conference of Consal, March 25-30, at Edsa Shangri-La Hotel, Ortigas Center, Mandaluyong. Call 9292180 or 9272044. E-mail consal.13@gmail.com

MARKET BAZAAR. Go Green Market and Bazaar will be held 6 a.m.-11 p.m., Feb. 25-26, at SM Megamall A grounds. The event will feature organic food, eco-friendly products. Call 6317520/21, 6555674, 0919-2419131 and 0921-9023525.

INVENTORY SALE. The Ayala Museum Shop is holding an inventory sale until Feb. 28. Avail of up to 50-percent discount on Museum Shop products that are inspired by the Museum's special exhibitions and permanent collection. The Museum Shop is at Ayala Museum, Makati Ave. cor. De la Rosa St., Greenbelt Park, Makati. The shop is open 9 a.m.-6 p.m., Monday-Friday; and 10 a.m.-7 p.m., Saturday-Sunday. Call 7577117 local 32.

PROMO. Enjoy great discounts when vacationing in Baguio City with Digitel's Digikard and DGMax Prepaid Cards' Tawag-Lakbay Diskwento promo available until May 15. The promo is being offered in cooperation with the Baguio Hotel Association, Inc. (Bahai). Every special edition Bahai Digikard (in P100 and P300 denominations) and DGMax (in P50 and P100 denominations) prepaid card entitles holder to discounts from Bahai member establishments of up to 30 percent on accommodations, food, beverage and services.

REVIEW PROGRAM. De La Salle-College of Saint Benilde offers a review program for the Foreign Service Officer's Examination, April 18-May 18. Program fee is P8,000. Classes are from 6-9 p.m. Registration is open until April 3 only. Call the Consular and Diplomatic Affairs Department, School of Multidisciplinary Studies of DLS-CSB at 5267441 to 47 local 202. E-mail sms@dls-csb.edu.ph

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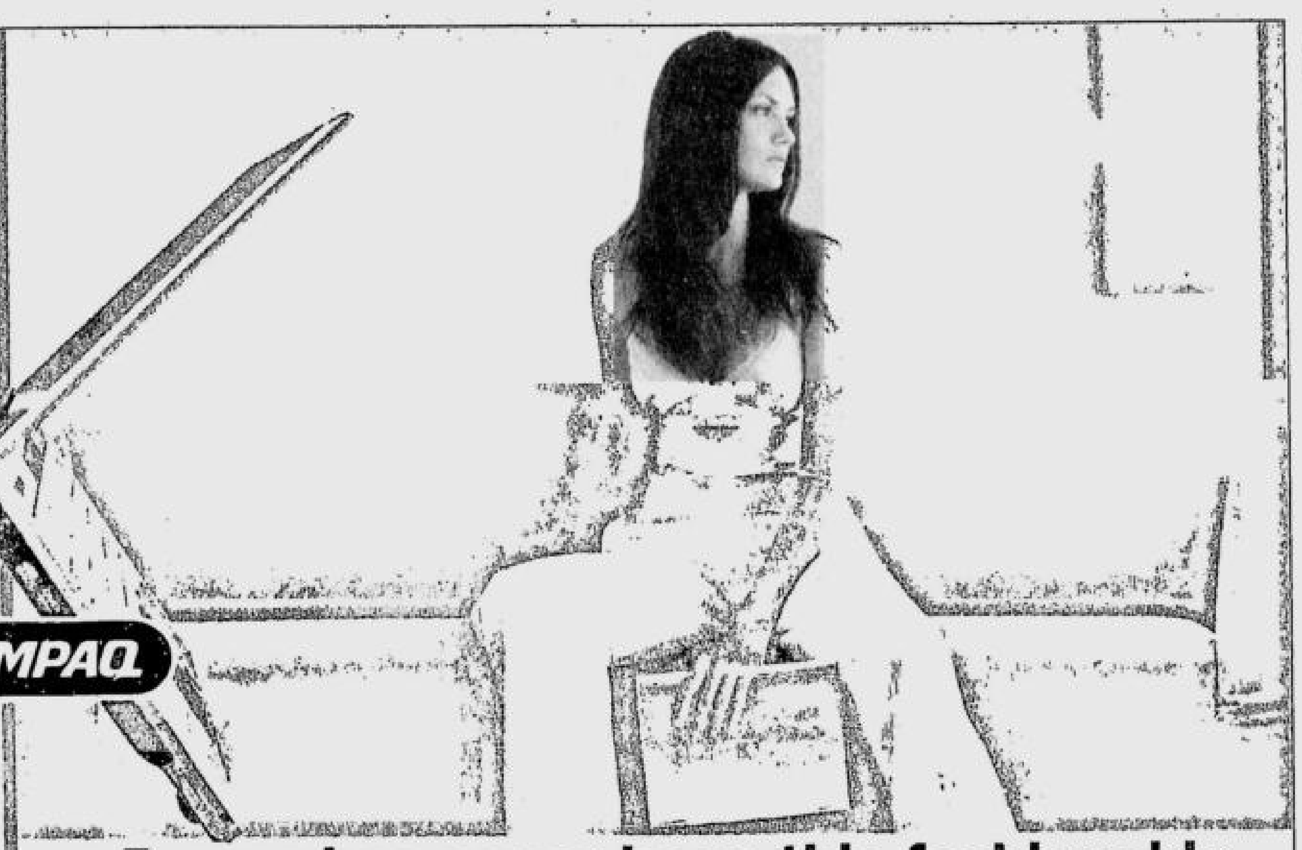

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LifeStyle
FASHION
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MODEL GWENAELLE RUAIS
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HAIR EMPHASIS SALON, USING BEDHEAD
CLOTHING CULTE FEMME
LOOT HAT BOX ASTRUD CRISOLOGO

Spring fling

The rewards of travel far outweigh the difficulty of packing

APPLES' PICKINGS

Apples Aberin-Sadhwani

I WOULD TRAVEL around the world 365 days of the year if I could. The thrill of discovering new places and cultures is beyond compare. My heart starts to palpitate even before the plane touches down any destination—be it Hong Kong, Shanghai, Paris or LA. I can't help but anticipate all the exciting adventures that lay ahead.

But as much as I love traveling, there is one thing I truly dread. Nope, it's not the long, potentially boring airplane ride or the long lines in immigration and customs. It is actually, plain and simply, packing.

Although I am quite organized, I always get into a bit of a tizzy right before a trip. I get especially frazzled (and excited, too) when the destination is a cold place that requires heavy clothing with lots of layers.

It's easy to pack for warm-weather locales because the Philippines is obviously a tropical country, but how does one pack for cooler spring, fall, or worse, winter climates? Although it's warming up here in the metro, it's still not even spring in other parts of the world. How can one stay warm, look fashionable and still pack lightly?

If you're heading out on a trip, don't panic. What I usually do is whip out my trusty pen and notebook and start making a list. I suggest you do the same so you don't forget anything or over-pack with useless extras like another pair of boots that you don't really need.

Then, log on to www.weather.com to check the weather forecast of the particular place you are visiting. Websites such as this normally give five-day forecasts so you can get a better idea about what articles of clothing you'll need during the duration of your trip.

Based on the weather, number of days and activities you will engage in, you can determine what kind of clothes you need to pack. Remember, it is always wise to work around a neutral color scheme that can be accentuated with accessories, which are all you need to personalize an outfit

SPRING/ E4

DARK rimmed sunglasses, Prada; pink Razr cell phone, Motorola; cashmere scarf, Burberry; black wool trench coat, Armani Exchange; black leather knee-high boots, Zara; emerald green faux croc doggie bag, Tyler

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To bare or not to ba

AUBERGINE maillot by Loungerilux at Chocolate Clothing Co., P2,399; sunglasses by Guess, P4,320; watch by DKNY at L Time Studio, P8,500; bracelet by Charmed at Chocolate, P650; bag by Christian Dior, www.dior.com

CHECKERED bikini by Heaven at Chocolate Clothing Co., P1,590; sunglasses by Police, P4,900; necklace by Envy, P1,000; watch by DKNY at L Time Studio, P7,000; clutch by Tyler, P3,250

By Cheche V. Moral

AH, THE GREAT SWIMSUIT debate: To go maillot or bare the midriff with a two-piece bikini!

If the surge of new swimwear brands, both imported or locally designed, is anything to go by, gone are the ghastly days when Filipinas trooped to the beach in baggy tees and shorts.

A newfound sensibility has Filipinas mustering enough daring to bare some flesh and don not just stylish swimwear, but also discard the unflattering and decidedly impractical T-shirt-and-shorts combo. Just think of the discomfort and potentially disastrous results of wading in deep waters in heavy, soaked clothing.

It's impressive how the Filipina has found ease in her own skin, enough to enjoy the multitude of swimwear choices available for her trip to the beach or a lazy lounge by the pool.

It's easy to think the more conservative types would opt for a maillot (pronounced mäyo), which, strictly by definition, means a one-piece swimwear that offers greater coverage, as opposed to a bikini that requires baring a little bit more than one's midsection. But with the varied options available these days, that is no longer the case. Many maillot styles, with cutaway sides or cut down to there, are just as coquettish and sexy as the next bikini.

"I think it's simply your comfort level that dictates the type of suit you prefer," says Cat Juan, a model who prefers bikinis. "I wouldn't necessarily say that girls who wear maillot are less liberal than women who wear bikinis." Juan herself owns one sport maillot "for doing laps."

An avowed water baby who's recently learned to surf, Faith Amigo says she opts for string bikinis simply because it allows her to catch a tan. She also finds bikinis flattering to her body type.

Juan, while partial to bikinis, owning over a dozen sets, however warns of the downside when doing water sports. "[Donning a bikini] increases your chances of having an embarrassing moment. I should know!"

More than the cut, fabric and quality are top considerations for Kat Tantoco-Lobregat. The petite entrepreneur wears both maillots and bikinis. "If the cut fits, [both] styles can be sexy, chic and glam."

Ditto, says Juan. "I choose suits that have both the cut that flatter my pear-shaped body and the quality to last through numerous hours in the water."

While she concedes there are many affordable brands with flattering styles now available in stores, the dusky young model says she's always willing to loosen the purse strings for a good swimwear. "I think an excellent swimsuit is a good investment and a little difficult to come by."

Ultimately, the question is not so much about which girl, er, swimwear style, is the more fun, but which girl has enough sense to pick out a cut that brings out the beach goddess in her.

E-mail the author at cmoral@inquirer.com.ph

PHOTOGRAPHY
MARC NICDAO/EDGE OF LIGHT
STYLING ROSARIO HERRERA/STYLE LAB
MAKEUP BEM ABELEDA/STYLE LAB
HAIR CHER CABUHAT/ PRIVE II
MODEL CHARO/CALCARRIE'S

AQUA maillot by Tiger Lily, P3,950; sunglasses by Ted Baker, P4,700; necklace, P980, and bangles, P300 each, by Lucy in the Sky by Happy David, P980; clutch by Aranaz at the Power Plant mall, P3,250

Many maillot styles, with cutaway sides or cut down to there, are just as coquettish and sexy as the next bikini

sunglasses b
wa

GRAPHIC-PRINT bikini by Heaven at Chocolate Clothing Co., P1,590; sunglass
Sky by Happy David, P2,980; bag by Aranaz, P1,200

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FLORAL-PRINT maillot by Bond Eye, P4,250;
y Ted Baker, P4,700; earrings by Get Happy, P695;
tch by Emporio Armani at L Time Studio, P13,910

es by Ted Baker, P4,700; earrings by Lucy in the

The great getaway is...

Compiled by Apples Aberin-Sadhwan

"A disappearing act, a shot in the arm, a break from routine. Nobody knows where you are and sometimes, even you don't know where you're going.

—Rico Blanco, musician

Spending a peaceful and worry-free vacation close to nature with my loved one.

—Gary Dulatas, top model

Anywhere with no cell phones, no deadlines, no stress—just my boyfriend and me. And since we're shooters, with a couple of guns and at least a thousand rounds to let off some steam.

—Cristina Pecson, newscaster

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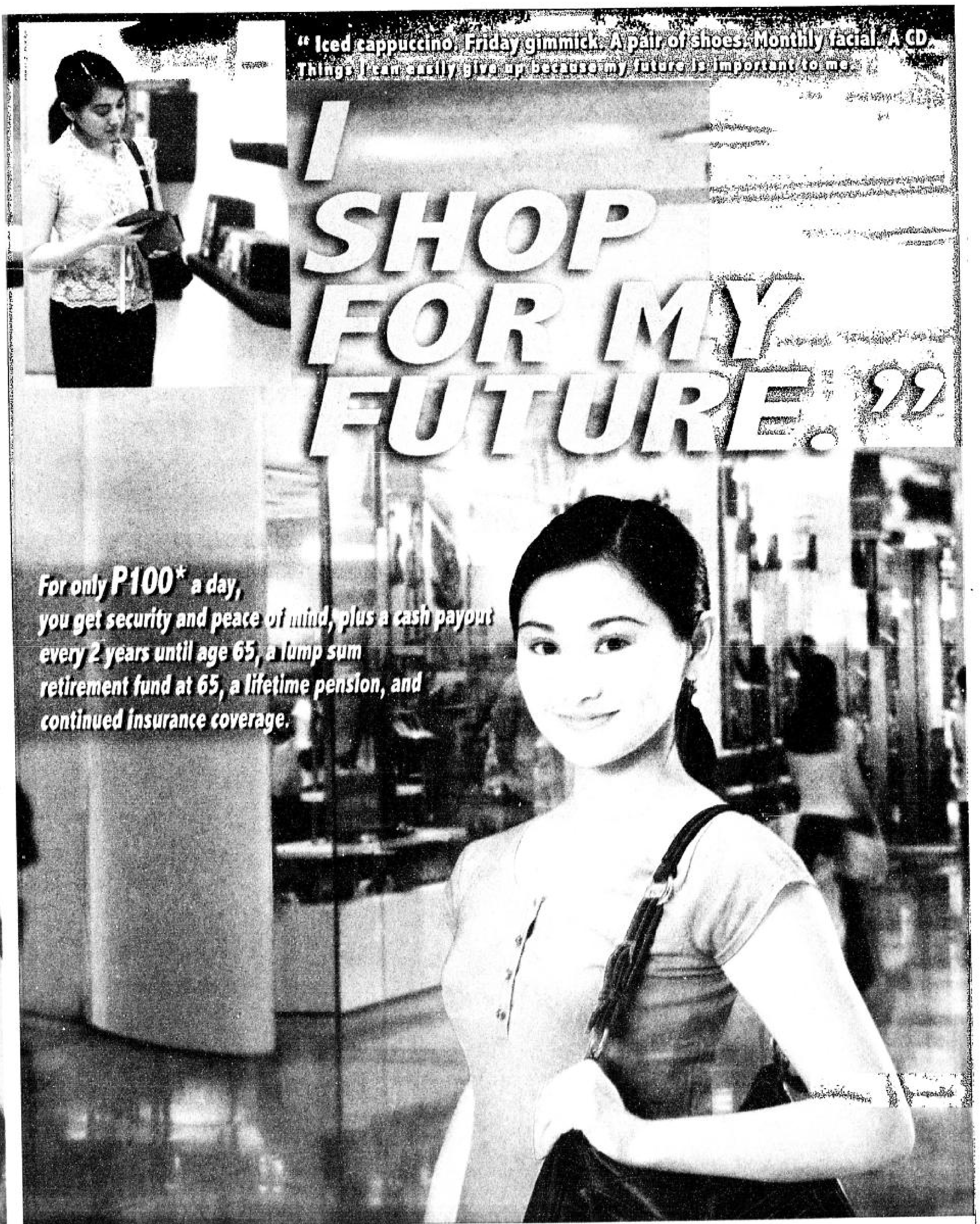
—Mia Borromeo, fashion consultant and Metro Society entertaining editor

Our place in Bayorbor, Mataas na Kahoy. Abroad, it would be Greece and London."

—Charlene Gonzalez-Muhlach, actress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BLACK coat with fur touches by Zara; Easy Share V-series digital camera by Kodak; faux diamond stud earrings by Silver Works

Spring fling

From page E1

or create a variety of looks.

Since you are presumably heading to a cold-weather locale, make sure you have one good coat you can wear with any of your outfits. Plus, keep in mind that layering garments is key when dressing for the cold. That way, you can easily peel off layers as you go indoors and out or as the temperature changes.

Fabric also plays an important role when dressing for the cold. Smooth gabardines, nubby wools, knits and other such substantial garments are needed in order to keep warm. And to keep things fashionably interesting, pack items with contrasting textures. You can combine smooth silk with wiry wools, for instance. Or why not juxtapose soft cashmere with leather?

You can actually make use of silk blouses and sweaters. But if your goal is to stay toasty, it's better to bring items made of cashmere, angora, mohair and the like.

Okay, okay, so it's not that big a deal, after all. With a bit of organization and imagination, packing can be a no-brainer. No need to stress out. The rewards of any trip far outweigh the inconvenience of packing, anyway.

E-mail the author at afashion@inquirer.com.ph

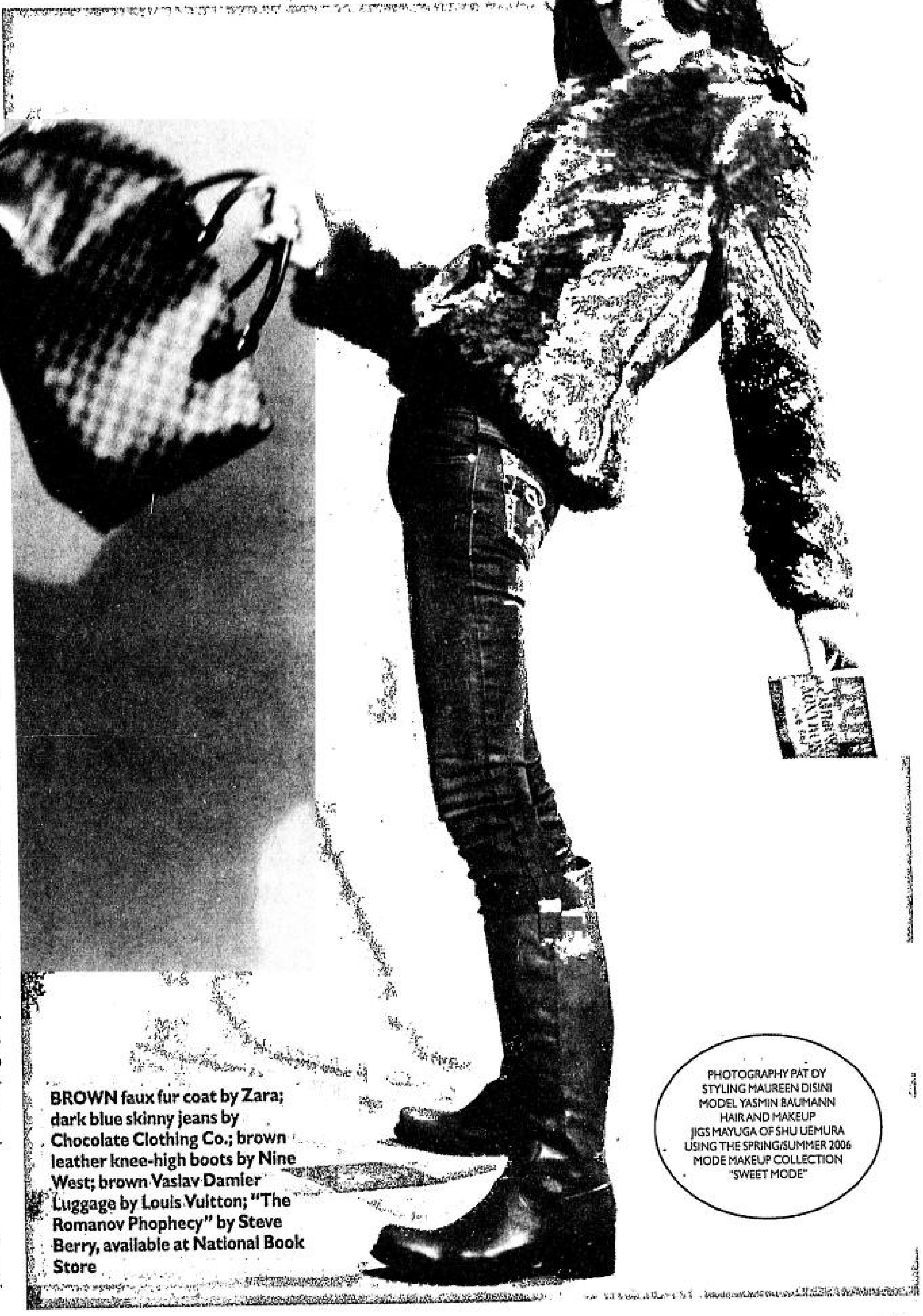
To pack or not to pack?

Think of your suitcase as your closet and ask yourself the following questions before packing a particular article of clothing:

1. How much room does it take up?
2. Does it match with other pieces you are bringing?
3. Will it go day into evening?
4. Can you wash it by hand?
5. Can you wear it more than once?
6. Does it wrinkle easily?

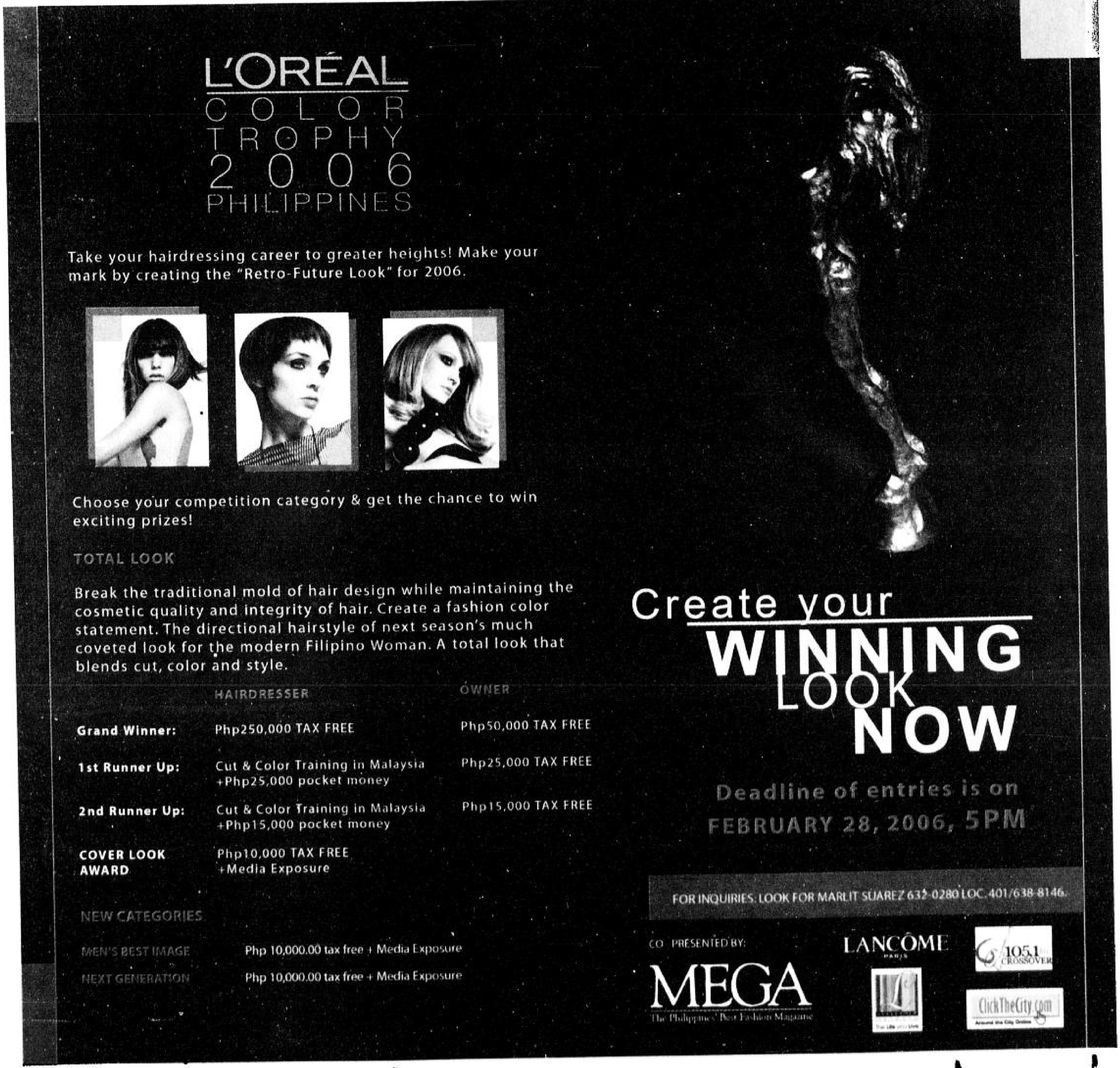
SOURCE: CHIC AND SIMPLE WOMEN'S WARDROBE

SHOPPING DIRECTORY: ARMANI EXCHANGE, GLORIETTA, SHANGRI-LA PLAZA ; AXCENT WATCHES, AVAILABLE AT MAJOR MALLS AND DEPARTMENT STORES, BEROCCA, AVAILABLE AT LEADING DRUGSTORES, BURBERRY, GREENBELT 4; CHOCOLATE CLOTHING CO., RUSTAN'S MAKATI, RUSTAN'S TOWER, POWER PLANT MALL; KODAK, AVAILABLE AT LEADING MALLS; LOUIS VUITTON, GREENBELT 4; MOTOROLA, AVAILABLE AT LEADING DEALERS; NATIONAL BOOK STORE, WWW.NATIONALBOOKSTORE.COM; NINE WEST, ALABANG TOWN CENTER, ALABANG FESTIVAL MALL, GLORIETTA, GREENBELT, ROBINSONS GALLERIA, RUSTAN'S GATEWAY, RUSTAN'S MAKATI, HARRISON PLAZA, SHANGRI-LA PLAZA MALL, SM MEGA MALL, SM NORTH EDSA; PRADA, GREENBELT 4, RUSTAN'S MAKATI; SILVERWORKS, AVAILABLE IN MAJOR MALLS NATIONWIDE; SHU UEMURA, RUSTAN'S MAKATI AND RUSTAN'S TOWER; TRAVEL CLUB, GLORIETTA, ALABANG TOWN CENTER, THE BODY SHOP, GLORIETTA 2, GREENBELT 4, POWER PLANT MALL, SHANGRI-LA PLAZA, THE PODIUM, ALABANG TOWN CENTER, FESTIVAL SUPERMALL; TYLER, GLORIETTA, POWER PLANT MALL, SHANGRI-LA PLAZA MALL; ZARA, POWER PLANT MALL



BROWN faux fur coat by Zara; dark blue skinny jeans by Chocolate Clothing Co.; brown leather knee-high boots by Nine West; brown Vaslav Damier Luggage by Louis Vuitton; "The Romanov Phophecy" by Steve Berry, available at National Book Store

PHOTOGRAPHY PAT DY
STYLING MAUREEN DISINI
MODEL YASMIN BAUMANN
HAIR AND MAKEUP
JIGS MAYUGA OF SHU UEMURA
USING THE SPRING/SUMMER 2006
MODE MAKEUP COLLECTION
"SWEET MODE"



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CONTRIBUTING EDITOR RIA FRANCISCO-PRIETO
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BEAUTY

WORLD Fusion reveals multicultural influences.

Trendy tresses, UK style

GOTHIC Luxury celebrates the mythical and the dramatic.

WELLA'S TREND Vision 2006 taps international artist Beverly C. of Great Britain to interpret playful contrasts in hairstyle creations that will be unveiled via a special presentation on March 6. The affair will be Wella's lead event for this year's Philippine Fashion Week.

Beverly C. is a top stylist and manager of two very popular London "insalons." She is a deft hand at creating sensational hairstyles frequently featured in magazines such as the British editions of Elle and Vogue.

"I think Trend Vision is a marvelous idea, because it sets the benchmark in terms of innovation and trend awareness. For me, this trend project from Wella is both an inspiration and a source of ideas," she says.

Trend Vision's lineup for 2006 includes Techno Nature, with its symbiosis of nature and technology, and Real Daydream, which weaves harmony between nostalgia and the present day.

World Fusion, a favorite of Beverly C., reveals multicultural influences, imaginative patterns and vibrant hues blending into an ethnic kaleidoscope. Gothic Luxury, meanwhile, reflects a yearning for the mythical and the dramatic.

The special presentation of Trend Vision 2006 by Beverly C. and her artistic team will be held on March 6, 6:30 p.m., at Rizal Ballrooms A and B of the Makati Shangri-La Hotel.

BEVERLY C. IN ACTION. The expert is adept at creating sensational hairstyles often featured in international fashion magazines.

Shrimp Lover's Platter

Crisp, juicy, and generous servings of fried tender tiger shrimps served with Belgian fries and Caesarslaw on the side. A tempting delicious treat we're sure you're gonna love. So...

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"THANKS TO VISA, WE'RE GOING TO HONG KONG DISNEYLAND!"

HONG KONG
DISNEYLAND

The seven lucky winners of the **"Enjoy the magic of Hong Kong Disneyland"** promo, along with three family members or friends of their choice, will be traveling to Hong Kong Disneyland for two days of fun and adventure.

The winners participated in Visa's promotion that ran from 27 November 2005 to 24 January 2006. One lucky winner was drawn each week. All Philippine-issued Visa and Visa Electron cardholders that made a minimum purchase of P500 during the promotion period were entitled to join by registering via SMS, the internet or call center.

Each winner will be receiving a paid trip for four to Hong Kong Disneyland, including airfare, a two-night stay at the Hong Kong Disneyland Hotel, Character Breakfasts, 8 theme park fast passes and HK$5,000 in pocket money.

"Being the world's leading payment network, we strive to make payments as fun and rewarding as possible. While cardholders enjoy the convenience and security of making payments through Visa cards, this promo also gives them the opportunity to experience a truly magical family vacation which only Disney can offer," said Visa International Country Manager for the Philippines, James Dixon.

Visa International and Hong Kong Disneyland have launched an alliance that makes Visa the Official Card of Asia's premiere theme park. The alliance is an extension of the global alliance between Visa and Disney.

The lucky winners are:

Josie Sarmiento,
Certified Public Accountant.
Winner of the first lucky draw on 13 December 2005

"We are all looking forward to the trip to Hong Kong Disneyland. Ever since it opened we have been curious on how nice and wonderful it must be. I'm sure we will have lots of fun as a family during the trip."

The Sarmientos will be traveling as a whole family with mom Josie, dad Emmy, son Jerico and daughter Kate. Josie has been using Visa credit cards since 1990 to pay for everything from groceries to medical expenses.

"Using my Visa card allows me to keep track of monthly expenses. It acts as my record keeper. It's also so convenient to have a Visa card when you're traveling since it's accepted internationally."

Josie with husband Emmy and children Jerico and Kate.

Dr. John Carl Caparas, Physician.
Winner of the second lucky draw on
20 December 2005

John Carl Caparas with mom Araceli, Pier Angelique and Alexis Kim.

"My nephews and nieces all love watching the Disney channel and getting a chance to go to Hong Kong Disneyland is a dream come true for them."

John will be going to Hong Kong Disneyland with niece Pier Angelique, 16, nephew Alexis Kim, 9 and mom Araceli.

John has been using his Visa debit card for more than 5 years now and also carries around a Visa credit card in case he has to make any unplanned purchases.

"I usually use my Visa debit card when going grocery shopping. It saves me from having to line up at the ATM machine to withdraw cash."

Juvy Ong, Comptroller, Cebu City.
Winner of the third lucky draw on 27 December 2005

"I've long been planning a Disney vacation for the kids. Thanks to Visa we are going for FREE!"

For Juvy, a family vacation she has been dreaming about is now a reality. This summer she will be traveling with son Bryan, 14, and daughters Jasmine, 12, and Jennine, 8.

"Ever since I could remember, I've been watching Disney movies. My favorite is The Lion King! I can't wait to go to Hong Kong Disneyland for the first time!" eldest son Bryan shares.

Juvy regularly uses her Visa card when going shopping.

"Using my Visa card makes paying for items I purchased so much more convenient. I don't need to be carrying a lot of cash all the time and that makes me feel safer."

Juvy Ong with (from L to R) children Jennine, Jasmine and Bryan

Inigo Generoso, College Student.
Winner of the fourth lucky draw on 3 January 2006

"What I like most about Visa cards is that it's accepted almost anywhere. Unlike other cards that I've used before, I don't have to worry about having enough cash for gassing up or paying for other expenses."

Iñigo Generoso with the winning card

Inigo, a supplementary card holder of his parents', uses his Visa card to gas up on his way to school everyday. He also uses it to pay for items that are not covered by his allowance such as school supplies, books and other needs. Little did he know that that would provide him with an opportunity to travel with his loved ones.

"We're all really excited and this is going to be a really good way to start off the summer vacation. This is the first time the four of us will be traveling together – it's going to be a great bonding experience."

Iñigo with Mikaela, Ericka and Anton

Inigo, 21, will be joined on the trip by sister Mikaela Generoso, 14, cousin Anton Buse, 13, and aunt Ericka Balcos. Inigo and company will be the youngest group among all the winners with Ericka at 26 providing the required "adult" supervision.

"Even though I'm the designated adult for the trip, going to Hong Kong Disneyland is an opportunity to be a kid again," shares Ericka.

Lina Castro
Winner of the fifth lucky draw on 10 January 2006

Upon learning that she had won a free trip to Hong Kong Disneyland, *"Great! This is great! Wow!"* was all she could say. Lyn was in the middle of a meeting and could not believe that she had actually won a trip for four to Hong Kong Disneyland.

Lyn will be traveling with brother Carlos Valencia, daughter Karen, 18, and a lucky godson of her choice. She has had a Visa credit card since 1994 and has used it extensively when shopping, both in the Philippines and abroad.

Lina Castro with daughter Karen

"My Visa card provides me a sense of security when I'm going shopping, especially when I'am traveling abroad."

Jeanne Co, mother of four.
Winner of the sixth lucky draw on 17 January 2006

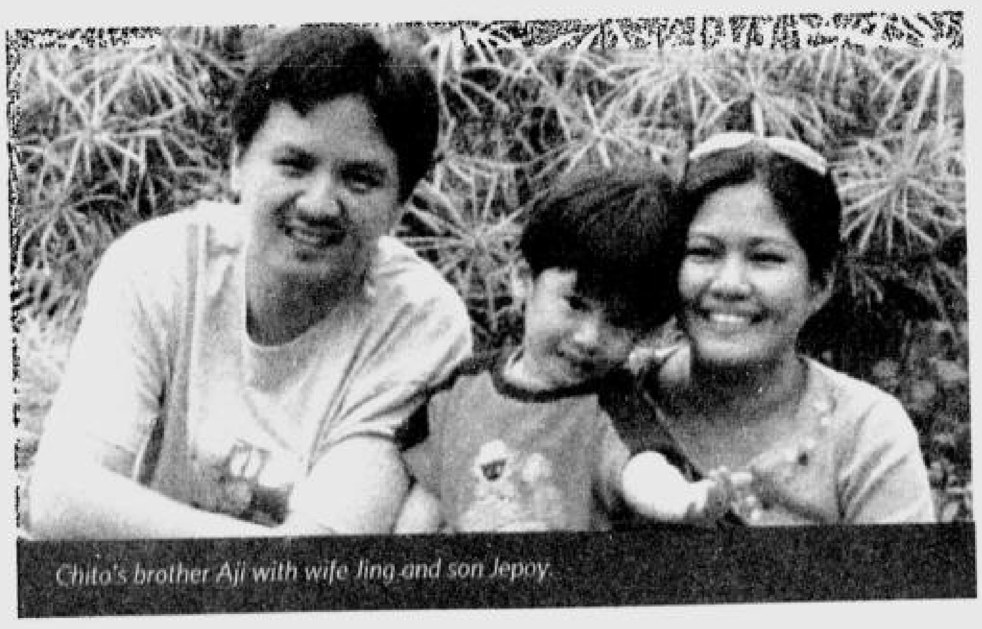
"My kids just love Disney cartoons and movies. For them to have a chance to see their favorite Disney characters live will be an experience they won't soon forget. I'm sure we'll all have a great time."

"I'm really excited to go to Hong Kong Disneyland. We'll get to see Mickey Mouse, he makes me laugh!" says Jeanne's daughter Shers.

Jeanne will be bringing along husband Sam, daughter Shers, 10, and son Josh, 7. Jeanne and her husband regularly use their Visa cards for a variety of needs. Raising four children involves a unforeseen expenditures and their Visa card helps them manage their finances better.

Husband and wife Sam and Jeanne Co with their four children

"Our Visa card is really a big help for us, it makes paying and tracking our expenses much easier."



Chito's brother Aji with wife Jing and son Jepoy.

Chito del Rosario, Merchandising Manager.
Winner of the seventh lucky draw on 24 January 2006

Chito del Rosario

A Visa cardholder since 1995 Chito has tested the limits and possibilities of his Visa card and is more than satisfied with the results. He once even went on a trip to Singapore and lasted the whole trip without using any cash.

"I use my Visa card for almost anything – paying for utilities and other monthly bills, groceries, shopping, gas and other car expenses. It's just so much more convenient than using cash, especially when you're traveling."

On the trip to Hong Kong Disneyland, Chito will be going with his brother Aji, sister-in-law Jing and their son Jepoy, 5. Their sister Irene will also join them in the adventure.

"This is a great opportunity for us to have some family bonding time. We all have busy lives here in Manila and a trip to Hong Kong Disneyland is a great way to unwind and relax. We're all excited for Jepoy since it will be his first time to go to Disneyland."

VISA

All it takes.

Ways to instant beauty

MAKEOVER 911

Kinny Salas

HOT DATES ARE NOT LIMITED TO Valentine's Day and anniversaries. Years of observation have caused me to discover certain products that work instantly and allow for smooth-sailing romantic celebrations.

Greasy face: It's bad enough in person for everyone to point out, but having it immortalized in photos is a nightmare!

Lancome's Pure Focus Cleansing Gel and the separate Mattifying Lotion/Toner is my fail-safe grease fighter. My very oily face really stays matte and porcelain smooth for hours even without a smear of foundation and powder.

Sleep deprivation: Leads to blotchy, shadowed and dull skin. Unfortunately, the spontaneous man will serve you breakfast in bed with a video camera on hand. Yikes!

My saviors are:

Guerlain Issima Midnight Secret. Wash your face before sleeping and apply three drops on face. All you need is three hours sleep and you wake up blooming. Of course, it is not meant to be used every night but only on days when you know you will lack sleep and need to be fresh for something important.

Flavo-C Flash serum provides instant results and leaves you glowing. Fine and deeper lines are obliterated or at least blurred. Dull skin from fatigue becomes plumped, firmer, smoothed out and rosy. The brand has Flavo-C serum for regular and daily use, but the more potent "Flash" version is for beauty emergencies. The catch: available at certain doctor's office only.

Deadly morning breath: Oracare is the best and most affordable product (at P140 and P50 for the big and small sizes, respectively).

Oracare mouthwash keeps bad breath away for eight hours. I gargle for a minute before my big date and before sleeping. This ensures I will have no morning breath, which we all know is important in the name of romance!

No matter how gorgeous you are, bad breath will kill the romantic moment. Oracare is available at Health Express and certain groceries and drug stores. I carry the small size in my purse wherever I go because one never knows. Wink wink!

Botox due: As luck would have it, your derma is fully booked. You have been putting off your scheduled shots and the delay shows as your lines have deepened, giving you the appearance of age and exhaustion.

For those who cannot get an appointment or are just afraid of needles, Pretox 3 HTP is an injection-free alternative to Botox with dermal filling properties. It's a muscle-relaxant gel that is applied sparingly morning and evening till your next appointment. It is used for the forehead, around eyes and between eyebrows.

Prefill HA is an injection alternative to dermal fillers like Perlane and Restylane. It is for use on the cheeks and neck for plumping up.

laura mercier

SECRET Camouflage

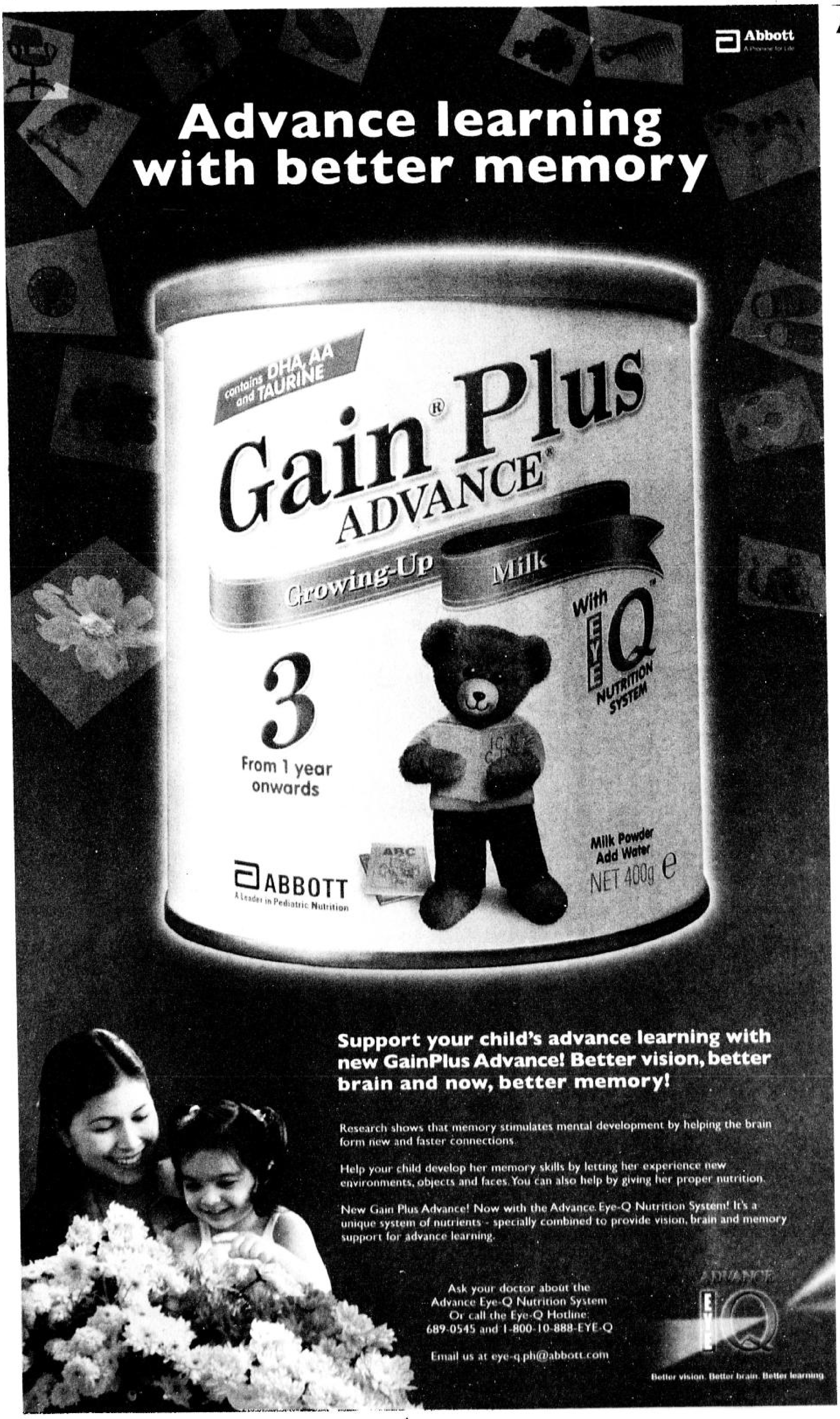
Huge zits that cannot be camouflaged by concealer: The quickest way around this is still to have it injected at the dermatologist's office or a reputable facial care center. I go to any Belo Medical clinic. It only costs P110-P150 per pimple.

The injection is especially advisable for cystic pimples which are hard, painful and leave holes on the face. Pimple will disappear in a matter of hours or overnight at most. Whatever remains will be barely noticeable or easily covered by concealer.

The pimple solution at Belo's first eliminates the redness and then deflates the zit. The aestheticians at Belo Plaza have very light hands so I barely feel the needle sting. They even put ice balls to numb you if zero pain is important for you.

Laura Mercier Secret Camouflage and Concealer Brush or Shu Uemura Spot Concealer are my staples and favorites for this job.

Guerlain and Shu Uemura are exclusively available at Rustan's Makati and Mandaluyong. Laura Mercier at Essenses, Rustan's. For inquiries on Prefill, Pretox and Flavo C Flash serum, call Jeunesse Manila at 6888062 to inquire about the doctors nearest you. For pimple injection inquiries, call the Belo hotline at 8442939.



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From 1 year onwards
With EYE Q™ NUTRITION SYSTEM
Milk Powder Add Water
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A Leader in Pediatric Nutrition
ADVANCE EYE Q
Better vision. Better brain. Better learning

Advance learning with better memory

Support your child's advance learning with new GainPlus Advance! Better vision, better brain and now, better memory!

Research shows that memory stimulates mental development by helping the brain form new and faster connections.

Help your child develop her memory skills by letting her experience new environments, objects and faces. You can also help by giving her proper nutrition.

New Gain Plus Advance! Now with the Advance Eye-Q Nutrition System! It's a unique system of nutrients - specially combined to provide vision, brain and memory support for advance learning.

Ask your doctor about the
Advance Eye-Q Nutrition System
Or call the Eye-Q Hotline:
689-0545 and 1-800-10-888-EYE-Q

Email us at eye-q.ph@abbott.com

Advance learning with better memory

Research shows that memory stimulates mental development by helping the brain form new and faster connections.

Help your child develop her memory skills by following these simple tips:

- At this age, toddlers are now making the connection between words and what they represent. Encourage her to label objects and pictures. If she can't describe something she sees, give her simple words to help her remember what that object is.
- Storytelling is a fun way for your baby to learn. Find a quiet place at a specific time to read aloud your child's favorite book. Once she knows the story by heart, have her help you out in telling it.
- Improve your child's memory by teaching her about rhythm through a short poem or song. After repeating a phrase a few times, skip the last word and check if she knows the missing word. This will not only encourage her to memorize but learn about language and pronunciation.
- Reinforce your child's recognition skills by helping her practice the sounds she hears – if you start, it's likely that your child will soon join in. Show her familiar objects like a car or an animal and ask her to make that sound.
- Explore your child's artistic side, use drawings, paintings, and pictures to tell the story of a special day. Then describe how the pictures tell the story.
- Encourage early memories - try working on new words and expressions when retelling family stories and interesting times—it could help her learn new ways to recall details later.

Experiencing new environments, objects and faces contribute greatly to your child's memory building and advance learning. You can help further by giving her the proper nutrition.

Support your child's advance learning with new Gain Plus Advance! For better vision, better brain and now, better memory!

New Gain Plus Advance now with the Advance Eye-Q Nutrition System! It has a unique system of nutrients especially combined to provide vision, brain and memory support for advance learning.

Ask your doctor about the Advance Eye-Q Nutrition System
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Sources:
http://www.fisher-price.com/us/playstages,
http://www.talaris.org, http://www.brainy-child.com,
http://ml.essortment.com/earlychildhood,
http://www.zerotothree.org

ADVANCE EYE Q
Better vision. Better brain. Better learning.
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LIFESTYLE

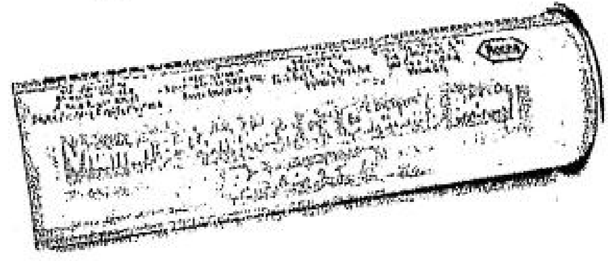
For feedback, e-mail us at lifestyle@inquirer.com.ph

feedback:
nessage to
33 (Smart)

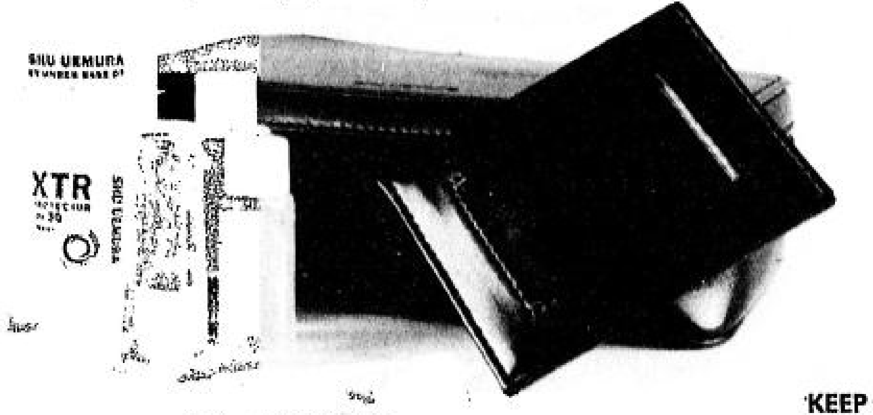
FASHION

Editors' Picks

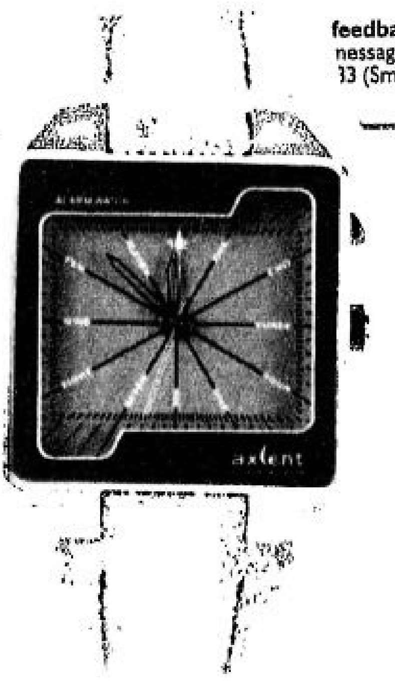
Jenni's picks



AVOID the sniffles by taking Berocca vitamin tablets.



THE MOONDROPS foundation travel kit by Shu Uemura covers all your beauty needs from anti-aging skincare products to basic makeup.



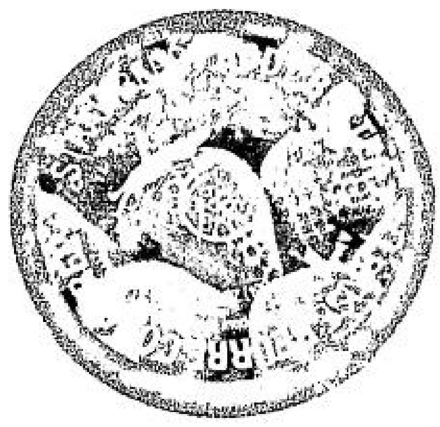
KEEP track of time with this Atomic watch with suede strap by Axcent.

Getaway gear

You don't have to pack everything in your closet plus the kitchen sink when prepping for a trip. Simply tote these travel must-haves (and some moolah or plastic, of course!) to experience the great adventure of your dreams.

AAS

Apples' picks

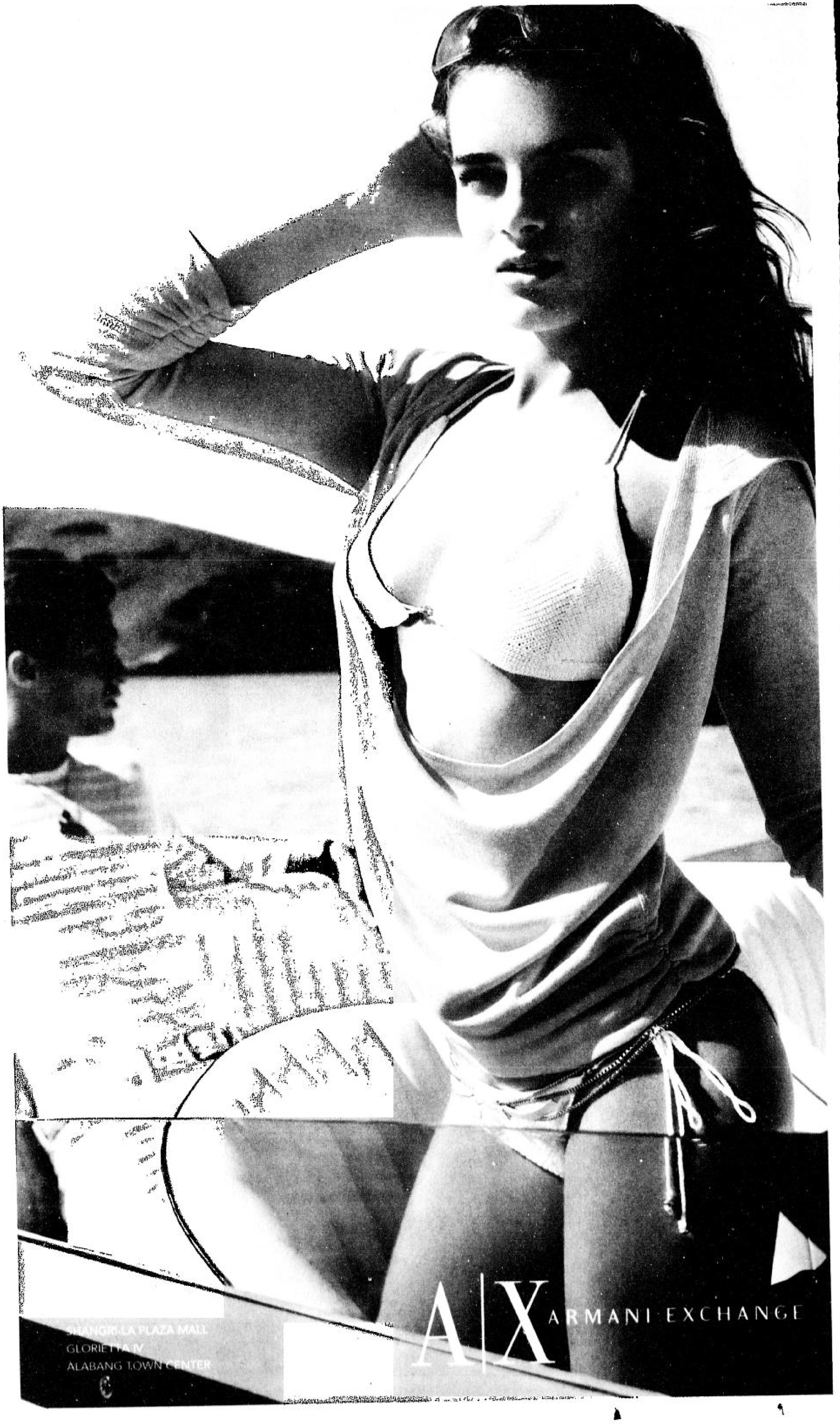


MOISTURIZE your skin with the Bodyshop's bodylicious Strawberry Body Butter.

LIP BALM #1 by Kiehls will keep those kissers smooth and hydrated.

THIS STRIPED carry all by Ace, from the Travel Club, is both practical and fashionably chic.

STAY warm with a neutral-colored wool sweater by Zara that will match anything in your suitcase.



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SHANGRI-LA PLAZA MALL
GLORIETTA IV
ALABANG TOWN CENTER

MALE MAKEOVER MALE MAKEOVER MALE MAKEOVER MALE M VER MALE MAKEOVER

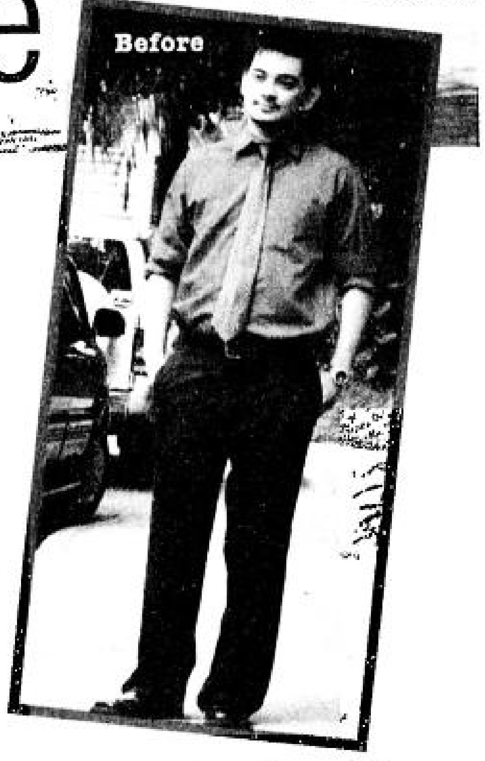
FOLLOW THE LEADER. Orange honeycomb polo shirt, P1,998, British India; moss-green honeycomb polo shirt, P1,998, British India; beige cotton Capri pants, P2,098, U2

Tech whiz meets style prince

Jayvee Fernandez has yet to perfect his signature style, but he's not about to give up trying

By Alex Y. Vergara

Target: Jayvee Fernandez, 25-year-old technophile
Mission: From computer geek to man out of town


Before

THE TARGET in his usual, potentially boring, corporate garb

LIKE MOST PEOPLE HIS AGE, Jose Maria Vicente "Jayvee" Fernandez thrives in multitasking. In other words, he's a man who wears many hats.

Apart from being the managing editor of m|ph, the country's leading mobile technology magazine, the 25-year-old tech geek is also the associate editor of Electronic Gaming Monthly and editor in chief of a weblog called Cellphone 9.

The list doesn't end there. He's also the vice president of the Philippine Palm Users' Group and an active member of the Philippine Macintosh Users' Group.

With all these responsibilities on his plate, can he still manage to put aside all his gadgets, dress up and head for the perfect getaway even for a day?

Far from your idea of the typical nerd, Fernandez is no recluse. He's equally comfortable in front of a computer as he is talking to a large crowd. Nor is he, with his boyish good looks and disarming ways, better read (or heard) than seen.

The man relishes the outdoors, which includes beaches and accessible mountain getaways such as Tagaytay, where he can sit under the shade and "cloudbathe" for hours, imbibing the seemingly endless expanse of sky and sea before him.

"I've realized how geeky my life has become in front of the computer," says Fernandez. "Lately, I've been making an effort to attend events, so what to wear has become a big concern."

After a couple of years in the real estate biz, Fernandez has had enough of the classic corporate look. These days, he can be seen most of the time in jeans and pastel tees splashed with bright and artsy prints.

"I put on a tie and slip into a formal pair of trousers only if I have to," he says.

Whenever he opts for a basic black or white top, it should carry some quirky message related to his line of work. What he needs to work on, he admits, are the two other wardrobe essentials. And we're not referring to his socks and underwear.

"I know which shirt looks good on me," says Fernandez. "What I still have to figure out are the pants and shoes."

Game for grooming

In other words, Fernandez has yet to perfect his signature style. It came as no surprise, then, when he gamely agreed to go through a grooming makeover one lazy Sunday afternoon at the hands of professionals at Emphasis Salon in Rockwell.

Hairdresser Edgar Relos went about snipping Fernandez's thick, straight locks to give it a more current look. One of Relos' male colleagues later reshaped his mustache and goatee for good measure.

"I've never worn a mustache in my life before," says Fernandez. "I purposely grew it for this photo shoot."

Hardly had Fernandez's newly shampooed hair dried when Relos began dyeing his "virgin" mane dark brown. After 20 minutes or so, colorist Black Elago went to work by adding some copper highlights to his already dyed hair.

"Since he has jet-black hair," says makeup artist Abby Arenas-de Leon, "we wanted to tone it down a bit. Dark hair could sometimes make you look harsher and older. The highlights were confined to the top to lengthen his face and make him look younger."

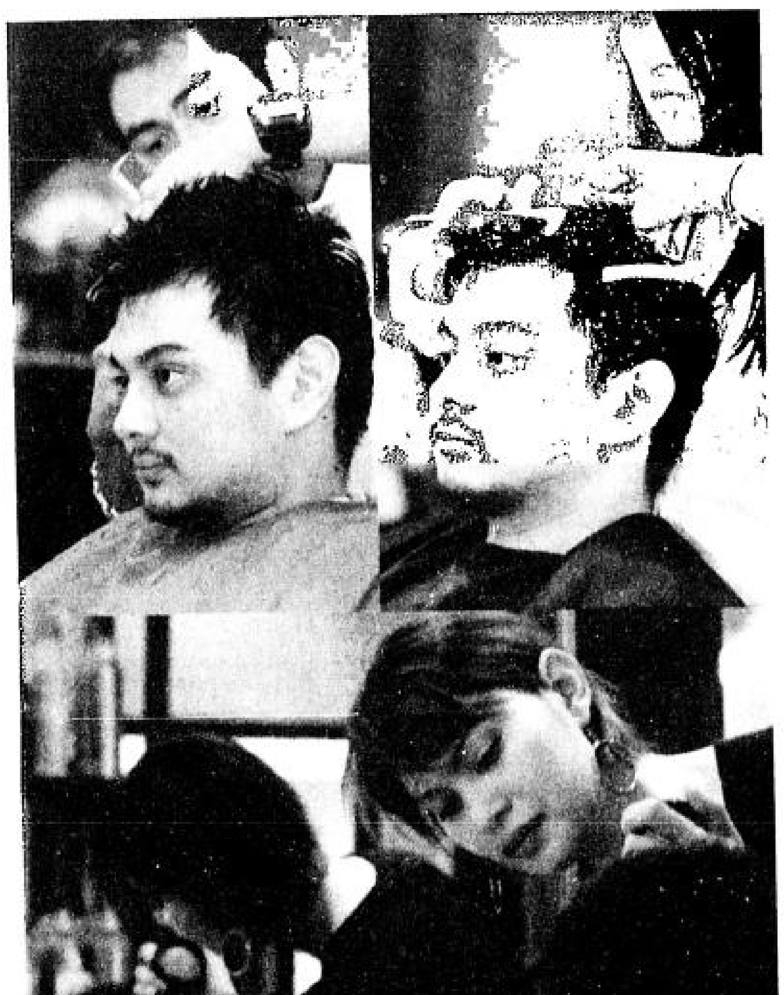
If not for Fernandez's one-hour air-tanning session, we would have proceeded immediately with the fashion shoot featuring him in the latest pieces from Cinderella's top brands.

Since the artificial tanning method, which can instantly give you a healthy glow that can last for over a week, needed to set in for at least a day, Arenas-de Leon advised us to shoot the next day at the nearby Rockwell Club.

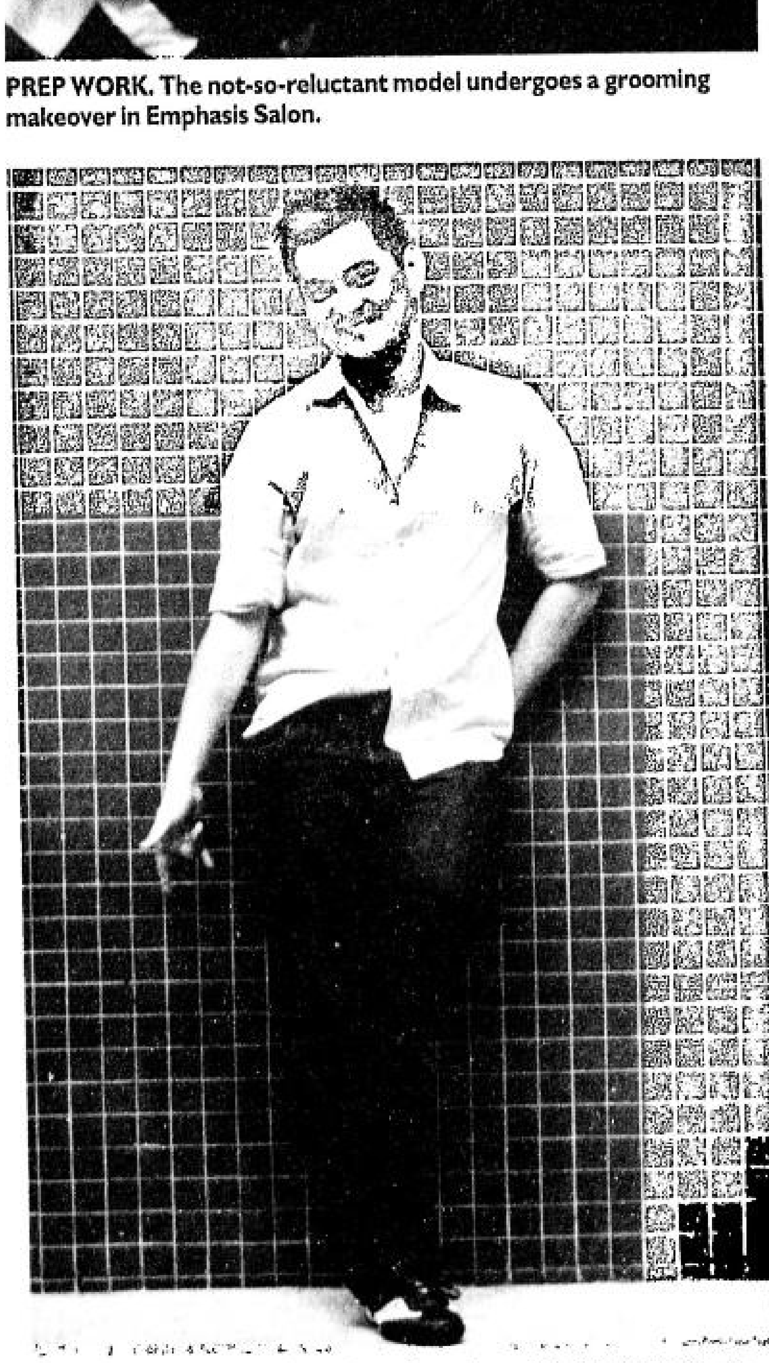
"He's a bit on the pale side," says Arenas-de Leon. "Apart from giving him a healthy glow, air tanning makes Jayvee look more manly and outdoorsy. As far as clothes go, he's no longer limited to wearing certain colors."

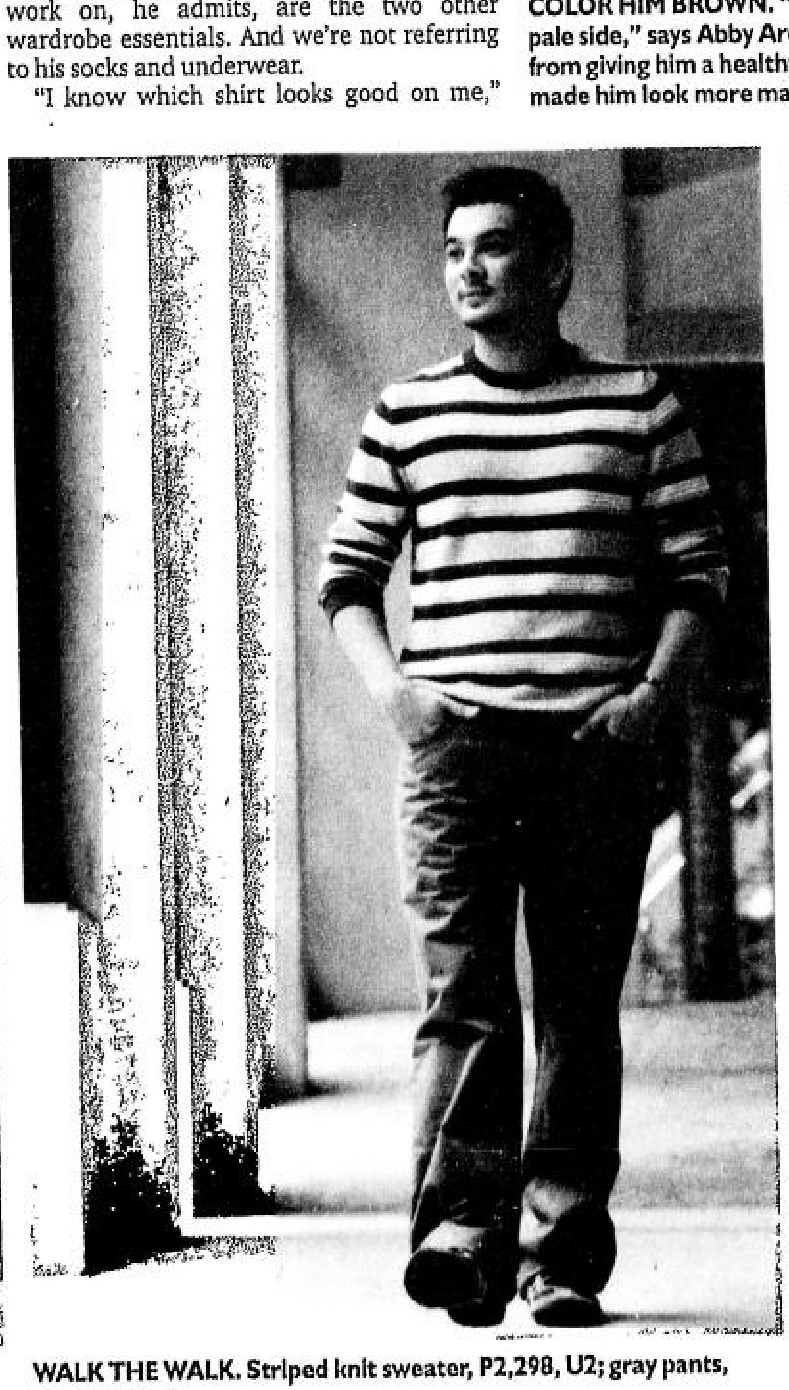
That's also the reason why her colleagues at Emphasis chose highlights over streaks. The former is a more subtle process. Since Fernandez needed to be in front of his office computer the next day, going for a more radical look was out of the question.

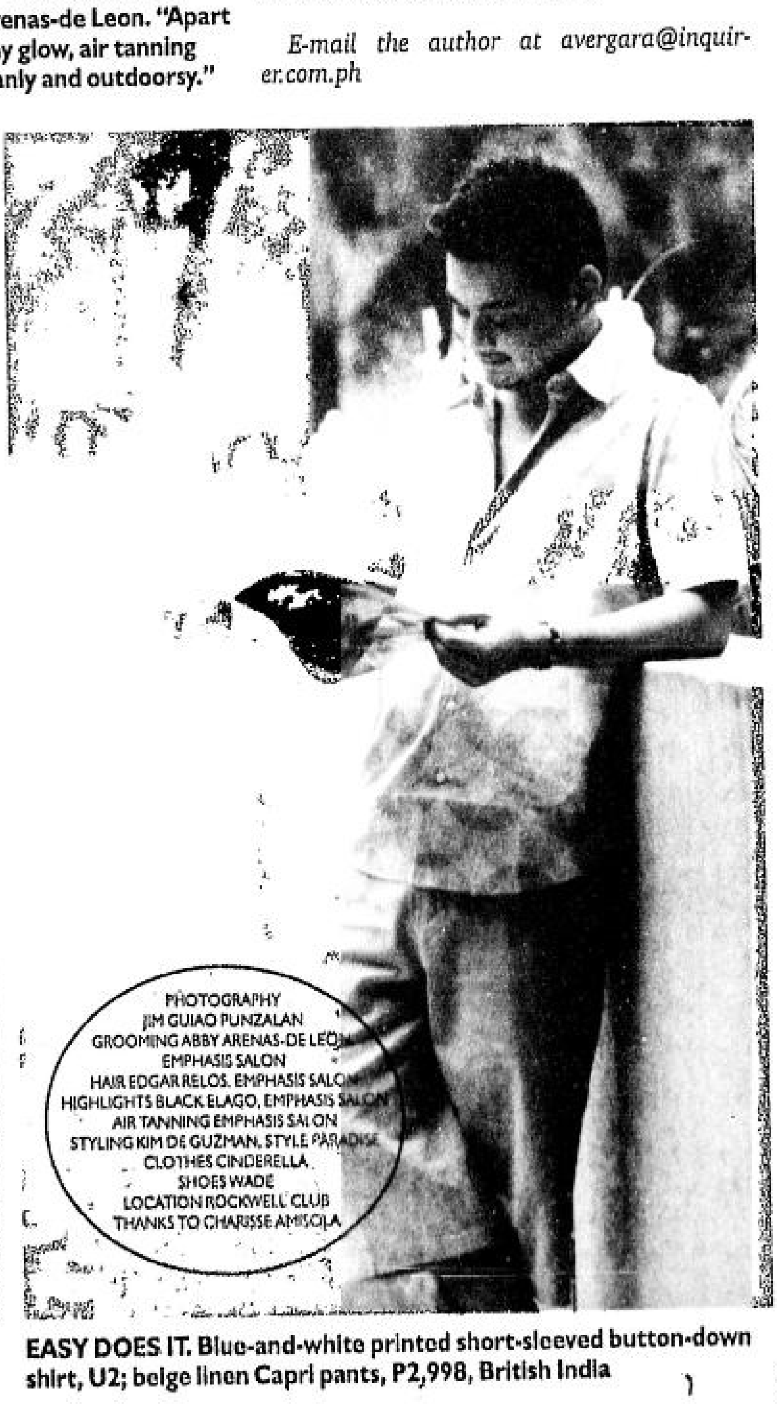
E-mail the author at avergara@inquirer.com.ph


PREP WORK. The not-so-reluctant model undergoes a grooming makeover in Emphasis Salon.

COLOR HIM BROWN. "He's a bit on the pale side," says Abby Arenas-de Leon. "Apart from giving him a healthy glow, air tanning made him look more manly and outdoorsy."


OFF THE WALL. Beige linen long-sleeved top, P4,498, British India; indigo denim jeans, P3,798, Esprit


WALK THE WALK. Striped knit sweater, P2,298, U2; gray pants, P3,498, Esprit


PHOTOGRAPHY
JIM GUIAO PUNZALAN
GROOMING ABBY ARENAS-DE LEON
EMPHASIS SALON
HAIR EDGAR RELOS, EMPHASIS SALON
HIGHLIGHTS BLACK ELAGO, EMPHASIS SALON
AIR TANNING EMPHASIS SALON
STYLING KIM DE GUZMAN, STYLE PARADISE
CLOTHES CINDERELLA
SHOES WADE
LOCATION ROCKWELL CLUB
THANKS TO CHARISSE AMISOLA

EASY DOES IT. Blue-and-white printed short-sleeved button-down shirt, U2; beige linen Capri pants, P2,998, British India

Sham luxury

By Alex Y. Vergara

IF IMITATION IS THE BEST form of flattery, then people behind such European luxury brands as Louis Vuitton, Hermes and Gucci, to name a few, should be beaming from ear to ear over how hot their products have become worldwide.

But nothing can be further from the truth.

Since the luxury business is big in France, a number of airport personnel in Paris are trained to spot and confiscate counterfeit paraphernalia. Dubbed as "flying customs," these people reportedly go beyond the airport and roam French cities in "search and destroy" missions.

The fight isn't confined to France. Even the United States Customs, which has waged its own war on intellectual piracy, has reportedly joined the fray by seizing fake luxury items from incoming tourists.

Such a shame campaign, however, has had little effect on Filipinos so long as they move within the Philippines. Even those who can afford the real thing couldn't care less if they're carrying a fake LV as long as it's of "Grade-A" quality.

Some, like Sally Salvador (not her real name), won't be caught dead using fake bags. Instead, she gives them away to friends and employees who don't know—or care—any better.

"I spent a little over P150,000 for Grade-A items to give away as Christmas gifts," says Salvador. "You should see how happy my employees were. They really use them."

With such a relatively small amount, she was able to give away a dozen or so bags, wallets and scarves copied from originals of such brands as LV, Hermes, Fendi and Gucci. Salvador herself finds her fake Hermes wallet and credit card holder indispensable.

"I probably can't even buy three genuine items with that amount," she adds. "The fakes I bought are really of good quality. I should know. I've been using the wallet and credit card holder for years."

Hierarchy

In the hierarchy of counterfeits, there are inferior fakes, found mostly in *tiangge* and shopping destinations like Greenhills, Divisoria, Baclaran and 168. Even some of Metro Manila's big malls house a number of small-time tenants peddling designer knockoffs.

What Salvador and Marissa Grande (again, not her real name) want are Grade-A stuff that, compared to their run-of-the-mill counterparts, are a bit pricier because of the superior components—from zippers to buckles, linings to rivets—and workmanship involved. They even come with nice boxes, serial numbers and dust bags.

They may be selling fake stuff, but dealers of Grade-A products are usually armed with the latest genuine catalogs from the luxury houses. It's their way of convincing would-be customers that what they offer are no mere fabrications, but are actually as close as one could get to the real stuff.

"Some dealers even call on big clients such as wives of certain politicians," says Grande. "These clients, in turn, invite their friends to come over and it soon becomes like one big Tupperware party."

Both Salvador and Grande refused to reveal the exact identity of their sources, but we have reason to believe that they get it from one person. For one, they both pointed to a certain bazaar somewhere in Metro Manila, which, they say, sells the latest Grade-A must-haves from Korea.

Unlike Salvador, Grande uses fake finds herself. A self-confessed bag junkie who's very much into trends, she stumbled upon the big, wonderful world of counterfeits two years ago out of frustration.

The motorcycle bag by Balenciaga she wanted badly wasn't locally available. She asked friends abroad to buy her one, but alas, they couldn't find the tan variant she had set her heart on.

Grande didn't have to wait long. A few days later, a friend who was carrying an original motorcycle bag in black, asked her to accompany her to this bazaar selling Grade-A counterfeits.

The trip turned out to be a serendipitous one. As they were going through the merchandise, she saw a fake version of the very same bag she had wanted to buy. What made it easier for Grande to finally decide to buy it was the presence of an original (her friend's) next to the fake.

"My friend and I compared both bags," she says, "and we were surprised to find out that they looked almost exactly alike. Some people I came across sometime later loved the bag. Of course, I didn't tell anyone it was a fake unless she was a good friend."

Her savings from the initial purchase (P8,000 versus the original price of P50,000) convinced Grande that it pays to buy Grade-A fakes.

"I get tired [of stuff] easily,' she says. "I have a number of genuine bags that I no longer use. At least I can easily dispose of a fake because it's not as valuable. I can even lay it down on the floor and not worry."

Unfair

But what really pushed Grande to the extreme was the unfair treatment she allegedly got from the LV store in Makati. She's inclined to believe that its staff plays favorites, especially when it comes to attending to clients on a waitlist, in favor of regular customers.

"They didn't know me because I usually bought LV bags abroad," she explains.

Grande claims that she once wanted to buy a Murakami bag from the Makati store. When she learned that the last remaining piece on the display window wasn't for sale, she asked a staffer if she could at least see it up close.

"She refused," says Grande. "I would have left it at that, but a few days later I learned from a friend that the same piece had been sold to a regular client."

The spurned shopper ultimately got her revenge when she went with a friend to Greenhills the next day. She found a replica of the very same bag that was denied her. Not only did it look almost the same, but it also cost a fraction of the original's price.

"It didn't look like a fake at all," she says.

(Executives at LV and Stores Specialists Inc., exclusive representative in the Philippines of such brands as Gucci, Prada, Tod's and Bottega Venneta, declined to be interviewed for this story.)

For women like Grande and Salvador, that's good enough.

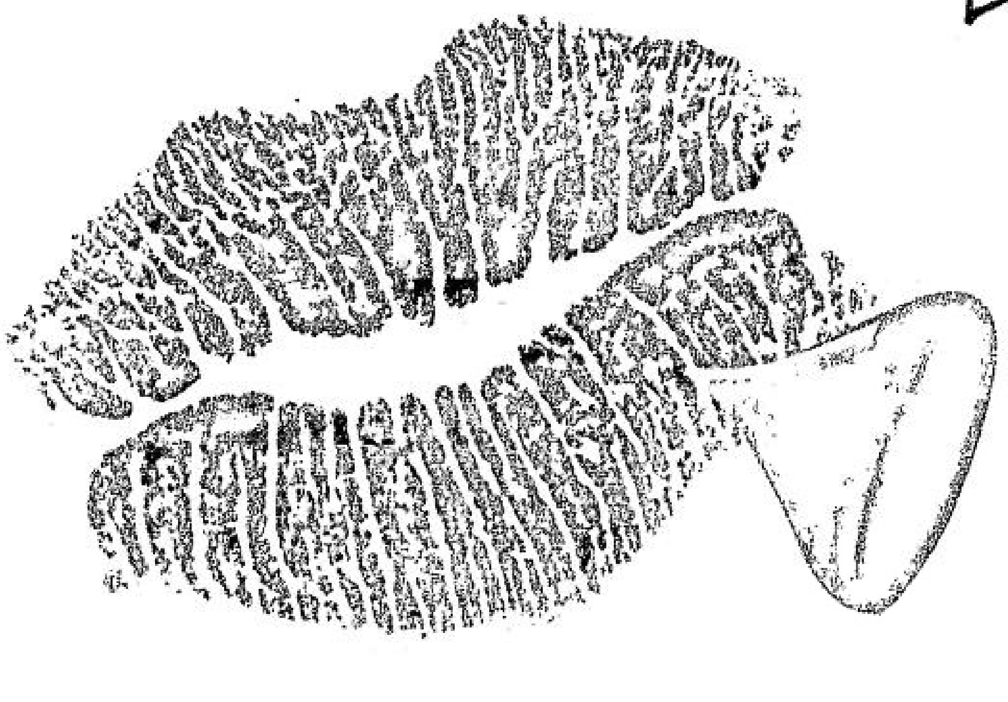
E-mail the author at avergara@inquirer.com.ph

PHOTOS BY RAFFY LERMA

In the hierarchy of counterfeits, there are inferior fakes, and there are the Grade-A stuff that can fool almost everyone—except the fashion police!

Careful, careful!

- Don't even think about it! Bringing your faux finds abroad, no matter how authentic-looking they are, and flaunting them in the airport is one sure way to court the ire of eagle-eyed customs police especially in hot spots like France, Italy and even the United States where luxury is big business.
- Don't hide fake and pirated stuff inside your suitcase. It's no guarantee you'll breeze through the airport. In fact, it can even cost you precious minutes as examiners rummage through your belongings (yes, even through your undies) in search of a dubious Louis Bitong, er, Louis Vuitton tote.
- Don't even dare have the fake Hermes Kelly repaired in one of the brand's boutiques in Paris. You might get the shock of your life if a staffer unceremoniously cuts the strap of your phony purse. Ouch!
- Do travel in style, but within your means. It doesn't matter whether you're carrying a local brand as long as it's real, stylish and mirrors your lifestyle and bank account.



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Per DTI-NCR permit no. 0731 series of 2006

fresh from the south, guaranteed bigger savings!

at the new SM Supermarket STA. ROSA

Being one of the pioneers in the supermarket industry, SM Supermarket delights shoppers once again as it opens its newest store south of Metro Manila, SM SUPERMARKET STA. ROSA that features bigger and better shopping options.

GREATER SHOPPING SPACE

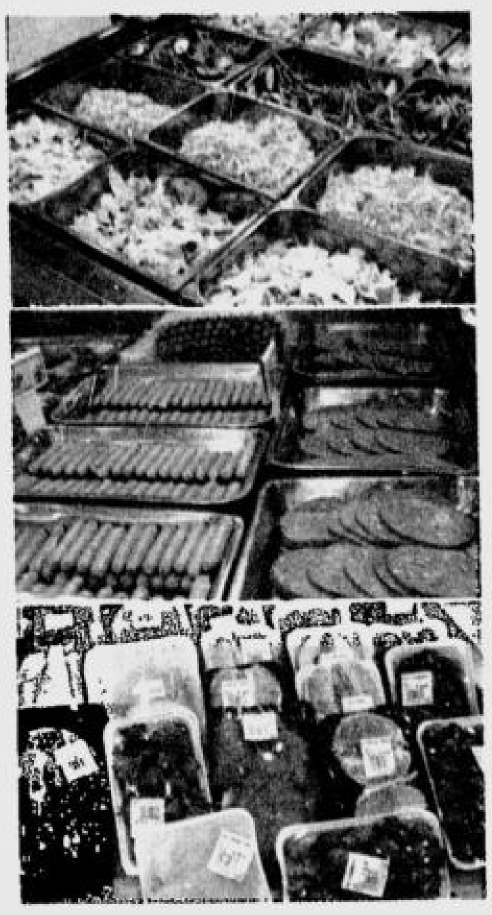
Now, shoppers will feel the real convenience of shopping. The new store not only offers the usual innovative retailing concept but a combination of clean, refreshing interiors and generous aisle space as well. SM Supermarket Sta. Rosa houses a noticeably large fresh food section at very affordable prices. One may now shop as leisurely as you want without having to worry about going over your budget!

DISTINCTIVE SHOPPING STYLE

Unique to SM Supermarkets, an extensive "takal-takal" section provides shoppers the freedom to choose from a wide variety of fresh produce and grocery staples. This allows patrons to shop to their hearts content meaning they get to pick and choose the items themselves. Besides, this idea gives shoppers an excellent economical perk because they no longer have to limit themselves to pre-packed items.

BUDGET-FRIENDLY SHOPPING

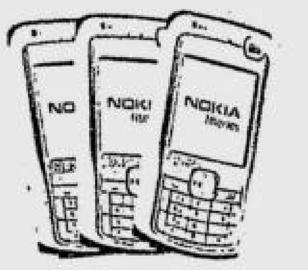
"Value for Money" or "Buying Your Money's Worth" is a standard for almost all shoppers. This concept is evidenced by the fact that when they enter an SM Supermarket, they leave with just the "idea" that they truly got their money's worth because the store offers almost everyhing the buyer will ever need and want, good quality items at the best prices.



What sets SM Supermarket apart from the rest is the fact that it aims to provide almost everything under one roof. Customers will be delighted to know that we will still offer the "special area" for ready-to-go food, a novel concept with the aim to help the busy mom or dad to simply buy, order and take home-deliciously prepared meals for the family.

MORE SHOPPING REWARDS

Giving you more reason to celebrate is SM Supermarket's latest promos. Come opening week, shoppers will be delighted to know that they'll get a chance to take home welcome gifts as well as fresh produce for every PhP 500.00 worth of purchase. This will also entitle them to win one of twenty (20) NOKIA N70's.



What's more, there will be a storewide Yellow-Tag-Special. One can play the "pachinko" for a chance to bring home household items for every minimum purchase of PhP500.00 carrying the appropriate yellow tags.

YELLOW TAG SPECIAL

Exclusive valuepacks are also available where shoppers can save up to 80% off on purchased items and take home a free Bonus item or Panasonic flashlight in each Valuepack. Special discounts on grocery items included in the Total Lower Cost Promo are also available at SM Supermarkets nationwide.

At the opening of the latest SM Supermarket in Sta. Rosa, you can expect fun family activities, non-stop celebrity appearances and other exciting events once it opens on February 17.

Enjoy the perks and convenience at SM Sta. Rosa. Shop, save and indulge in the treats that supermarket shopping has in store for you!

'andito na sa laguna!

SM SUPERMARKET

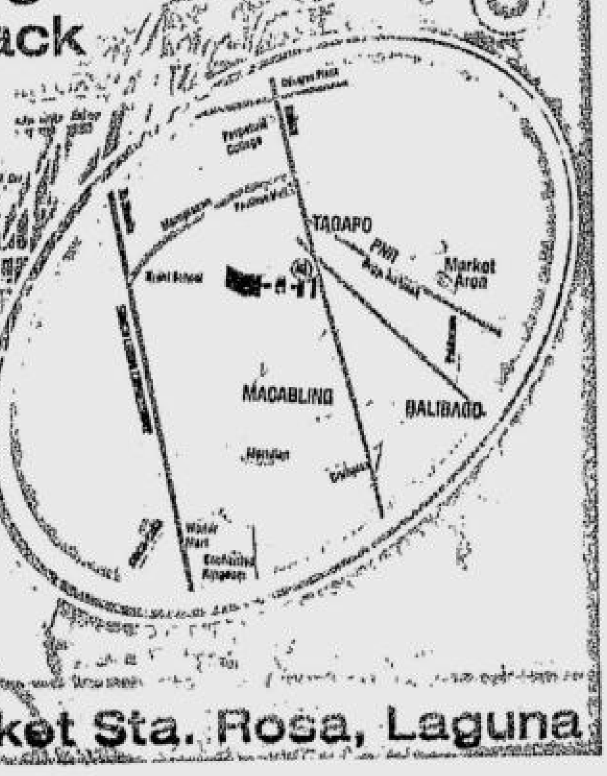
STA. ROSA

SM SUPERMARKET

FREE SM BONUS item or Panasonic flashlight in every value pack

save up to 80% off

Value
BONUS
BATHROOM TISSUE



SM Supermarket Sta. Rosa, Laguna